

STARS AND STRIPES®

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2005

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N. Korea berates Rice, vows no negotiations

Secretary of State to visit Japan, S. Korea during Asia visit

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First line of defense

U.S., Japanese airmen train to guard gates Page 3



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Above left: Staff Sgt. Jonathan Homer, an explosive ordnance disposal expert with 35th Civil Engineer Squadron at Misawa Air Base, Japan, holds a dummy stick of dynamite during a discussion on improvised explosive devices at an exercise Tuesday between Japan Air Self-Defense Force 3rd Air Wing guard and transportation troops and 35th Fighter Wing security forces. Above right: A Japanese airman examines a fake pipe bomb. The two sides shared techniques they use during vehicle search operations.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Fla. right-to-die case: The husband of a brain-damaged woman accused Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and state legislators of pandering to voters by trying to pass legislation preventing the removal of her feeding tube.

Michael Schiavo leveled the accusations Tuesday in an interview for ABC's "Nightline" after state House and Senate committees endorsed bills aimed at preventing removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube. A judge has scheduled the removal for Friday.

Pinochet banking help: Not just Riggs Bank, but eight others — including Citigroup and Bank of America — helped former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and members of his family build a secret network of accounts to conceal his wealth, Senate investigators have found.

In a report released Tuesday, the investigators charged that Riggs's dealings with Pinochet were far more extensive and long-standing than had been known.

University of Colo. grants: A philanthropic organization that has given the University of Colorado nearly \$2 million in the past three years has delayed fulfilling grant requests this year, in part because of the school's recent scandals, the organization's president said.

Some board members were concerned about problems facing the university, including the investigation of a professor who compared some Sept. 11, 2001, victims to a Nazi, the football recruiting scandal and questions about the finances of the university's fund-raising arm. Others wanted to look at the success of previous grants.

World

Madrid train bombing: Lawmakers probing the Madrid, Spain, train bombing on Wednesday rejected a request to hear more testimony and instead set an April 19 deadline for draft proposals that would be included in a final report on Spain's worst terrorist attack.

The conservative Popular Party, which was in power at the time of the attack March 11, 2004, has been pressing for the 16-member panel to hear from more police and other witnesses, but the panel said no on Wednesday.

Japanese claim on islands: A provincial assembly voted Wednesday to assert Japan's territorial claim over a cluster of



PAUL G. SCHERMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. tsunami aid: The hospital ship USNS Mercy awaits port services in January after arriving in Singapore to take on supplies and personnel. The ship left Indonesia's Aceh province Wednesday, ending the U.S. military's tsunami relief in the area. The ship planned to stop in eastern Indonesia to treat patients there on its way home, the U.S. Embassy said.

South Korean-held islands, raising the stakes in a dispute that has strained relations between the two countries.

The islets are known in Japan as Takeshima and in South Korea as Dokdo.

The South Korean government reacted angrily to the vote, sending an official protest to Tokyo demanding the immediate cancellation of the move.

Oil production: Driven by fears of a winter supply crunch at year's end, OPEC oil ministers agreed Wednesday to immediately authorize the pumping of an extra half-million barrels of oil a day and to approve a similar boost later if prices do not fall.

The decision to look to winter and raise the OPEC production quota just ahead of the northern hemisphere springtime — when demand normally falls — was unusual. It reflected concern about OPEC's ability to influence a stubbornly bullish market that has driven prices of benchmark light crude up about 25 percent this year alone.

Beauty queen trial: A beauty queen who shot and killed her two-timing boyfriend ended up charged with murder in Savannah, Ga., Wednesday after claiming she acted in self-defense.

Sharvon Nicole Redmond admitted shooting her boyfriend outside the home of another woman he was dating but said she

thought he was reaching for a gun. He did not have a weapon.

Redmond, 23, had faced an automatic life sentence if convicted of Kevin Shorter's 2003 slaying. Four months earlier she had been crowned Miss Savannah.

The jury of nine women and three men deliberated for a little more than nine hours over two days.

Pakistan rape: Pakistan authorities said on Wednesday that they have posted more than two dozen police officers outside a woman's home to guard her after a court freed four of the six men convicted of raping her — an attack ordered by a village council as punishment for her brother's alleged misdeeds.

The four men walked out of a high-security jail nearly three years after being convicted of raping 33-year-old Mukhtar Mai. The four men have been told "to stay away from Mukhtar Mai's house," Iqbal said.

Pope's health: Pope John Paul II made a surprise appearance Wednesday at an open window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, his first in public since being released from the hospital after throat surgery.

The 84-year-old pontiff appeared briefly to pilgrims who had gathered on the square on a day when the pope typically greets the faithful in a weekly public audience.

From The Associated Press

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U.S., JASDF units practice gate-guard duty

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The sudden barrage of what sounded like artillery fire as a car sped through the gate was loud enough to startle the bomb-sniffing dog but was just one of several exercise scenarios Tuesday, designed to bolster security at this northern Japan base.

Members of the 35th Fighter Wing and Japan Air Self-Defense Force's 3rd Air Wing often train together at this joint fighter installation, most notably with their pilots and planes. But this week each wing's security troops were joining for the first time to train on vehicle search procedures.

"In higher force-protection conditions, we may call upon JASDF to provide extra personnel to help support search operations at the gate," said Capt. Cheryl May, installation antiterrorism officer, 35th Security Forces Squadron.

The training lets the two sides observe each other's rules of engagement in an effort to streamline such procedures where possible, officials said. Operating by the same guidelines may ease confusion in a chaotic, potentially deadly situation where two languages are being spoken, May said.

Tuesday, U.S. security officials observed how JASDF personnel reacted to a vehicle running the gate. Maj. Joe Milner, 35th Security Forces Squadron commander, said JASDF troops follow a different procedure; they offer several verbal warnings and a warning shot before firing.

"We don't authorize warning shots," Milner said. "When you fire a bullet up, it's got to come down somewhere; typically it's not on the base. If you're blowing through the gate, you're considered a hostile person."

"We're just kind of walking through some of the practical parts — 'If this happens' — what each side will bring to the fight," he added.

Also for the training, U.S. explosive ordnance disposal experts planned fake improvised explosive devices on several exercise cars entering a gate near the JASDF hospital, then watched as JASDF guards and transportation troops, with their bomb-sniffing dog, searched the vehicles.

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Hurley and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Homer later answered questions from JASDF about the IED props from a pipe bomb to a radiological dispersing device concealed in a briefcase.

They started to talk about WMD —



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Cheryl May, installation antiterrorism officer for 35th Security Forces Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, helps secure a roadway during an exercise Tuesday with Japan Air Self-Defense Force guard and transportation troops from the 3rd Air Wing. U.S. and JASDF security forces are practicing vehicle search operations this week in an effort to mesh their procedures and enhance cooperation.

or weapons of mass destruction — before JASDF's translator explained that no, the question was about military working dogs — or "MWD" — and the chemicals they can smell.

Homer and Hurley could answer that, too. "They're normally trained to detect nine types of explosives but every dog is different in their qualities and abilities," they said.

The training was to delve further into IEDs and explosive detection training Wednesday. Though IEDs seem to be the weapon of choice in Iraq, May said, in Japan, "We've got to be ready for it. The more prepared we are, the harder the target we are."

Also on tap Wednesday were combined vehicle searches at the base main gate and an antiterrorism "level one" briefing, translated into Japanese, for JASDF, Japanese National Police and Army and Air Force Exchange Service employees who don't speak English, May said. Topics to be covered included the recent Russian school hostage incident and the Kobor Towers terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia. "Stuff to be aware of, how to report it," May said.

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Fake improvised explosive devices like these were used in the exercise.

IDs to get closer look at Misawa

Gate guards at Misawa Air Base, Japan, are now hand-inspecting identification cards of all drivers and pedestrians entering the base, 24 hours a day.

Drivers must pull out their ID card and hand it to the guard; passengers need only show their identification. Previously, gate guards visually inspected ID cards, with hands-on inspections conducted randomly or if a car looked suspicious, base security officials said.

The Air Force in February 2004 directed all bases to check "100 percent ID of all drivers and pedestrians," said Maj. Joe Milner, 35th Security Forces Squadron commander. "We have implemented that to different degrees ever since then. We have gone to 100 percent (hands-on) ID checks as a random measure before, but it was highlighted recently to us that we have to make it 100 percent all the time."

During the Unit Compliance Inspection that ended March 4, a member of the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General team was able to drive on base with a counterfeit ID, Milner said.

"We took a hit for it during the UCI; that was a finding," he said.

But the security forces commander stressed that base officials don't believe base security was lax. "We didn't agree with" the finding, he said, noting the inspector was driving an IG-marked car and as such, was treated as a distinguished visitor and was not questioned.

Security forces ran their own surprise test by having some first-term airmen swap their IDs and try to gain access to base. "They got nailed every time," Milner said. "That proved to us our security was strong in catching people."

Milner said another reason for the 100 percent ID inspection is counterfeit Defense Department IDs have been showing up recently in the United States; thorough examination of IDs is the standard at stateside military bases.

The Misawa gate ID policy change went into effect Monday and immediately caused a huge traffic snarl during the morning commute. During the peak traffic hours of 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Monday, it took about 1½ to two hours to get onto base, "depending on where you were at," Milner said. Cars were slowed because many drivers weren't prepared to pull out their ID cards and hand them to the guards, Milner said. By Tuesday, the wait was down to about 20 minutes, officials said, and Wednesday, a motorist entering the main gate around 8 a.m. reported no delays.

Milner said Japan Air Self-Defense Force troops soon will augment U.S. security forces at the gates to help check IDs faster. For the first time, JASDF 3rd Air Wing and security forces members conducted training in various vehicle search operation procedures at Misawa this week.

— Jennifer H. Svan

Luncheon recognizes notable women of Misawa

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Women who've made a difference in the Misawa community were mentioned alongside the assistant surgeon general for medical force development and nursing services, talked about her four female heroes: Abigail Adams, Elizabeth

Cady Stanton, Fannie Lou Hamer and Simeona Semanar.

The first three were staunch advocates of women's rights long before the term "feminism" was coined, and Samar continues to fight for the rights of women in post-Taliban Afghanistan.

In challenging the audience to read more about these remarkable women, Brannon said: "Never underestimate the power of one woman" and of individual voices.

"Each of us has the responsibility to make the world a better place," Brannon said. "There's

still so much work to be done in our communities, in our nation and in our world."

Misawa's Women's History Month Committee also used the luncheon to recognize winners in an awards program that it hopes to make an annual event, said Maj. Jody Ocker, Women's History Month project officer.

Twenty women on base were nominated in six categories for the Women Change Misawa Recognition Program.

"It was very difficult to choose," Ocker said. "We had a first-grader nominate their teach-

er, children nominating their parents, spouses nominating their wives, and co-workers nominate women who have inspired excellence in their work."

The awardees and their respective categories were:

■ **Japanese National:** Kyoko Hasegawa, 35th Fighter Wing public affairs off-base community liaison.

■ **Civilian Category A:** Rochelle Phelps, Family Advocacy outreach manager.

■ **Civilian Category B:** Sharon Stone, Misawa American Red Cross and 35th Medical Group volunteer.

■ **Enlisted:** Staff Sgt. Gloria Bales, community volunteer.

■ **Officer:** Maj. Samia Ochia, emergency room family practice physician.

■ **Youth-Nominated:** Lisa Wangelin, nominated by 9-year-old daughter.

Nominees received a certificate signed by 35th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Bill Rew. The winners also received a \$25 Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift certificate and a flower arrangement.

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Iraq parliament opens amid nearby bombings

BY RAWYA RAGEH
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's first freely elected parliament in half a century began its opening session Wednesday after a series of explosions targeted the gathering.

The parliament's 275 members, elected during Jan. 30 balloting, convened in an auditorium amid tight security in the heavily guarded Green Zone, with U.S. helicopter gunships hovering overhead.

Minutes before the assembly convened, at least a half-dozen explosions detonated a few hundred yards away. The U.S. military said two mortar rounds landed inside the zone but caused no injuries.

After Wednesday's session ended, another mortar shell hit an empty building in central Baghdad's Karradah neighborhood, setting the two-story structure on fire, police and witnesses said. There were no reports of injuries.

The lawmakers opened with a reading of verses from the Quran. Iraqi Chief Justice Medhat al Mahmud then administered the oath to the assembled deputies.

"It is a great day in Iraqi history that its elected representatives meet," said Foad

Masoum, a Kurdish delegate.

"This day coincides with a painful memory that has many meanings. ... Today, on this occasion, we celebrate the inauguration of parliament after the fall of this regime."

Wednesday marked the anniversary of the Saddam Hussein-ordered chemical attack in 1988 on the northern Kurdish town of Halabja, an attack that killed 5,000 people.

Iraq leaders have not yet agreed on a coalition government, and the leader of the Shiite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance, cleric Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, said his alliance hoped to "form a government whose motto is to serve the Iraqi people, a government of national unity and reconciliation."

"A government that can root out violence and set a trial for Saddam and the elements of his regime," Hakim said in a speech that wore in and out of prayer. He said a government led by the alliance would also try "to achieve the independence of Iraq and put an end to the role of multinational forces in Iraq."

Jalal Talabani, the Kurdish leader who will probably become Iraq's next presi-



Iraq's National Assembly, the country's first freely elected parliament in half a century, convenes in Baghdad on Wednesday. The gathering marks a major milestone on the road to forming a new government in the insurgent-racked country.

dent, said deputies "all have a duty to achieve real national unity."

"Iraq is facing tough times due to the continuation of criminal terror crimes," he said. "Al-Qaida is waging a war of extermination on Kurds and Shiites."

On Tuesday, Shiite Muslim officials said they failed to reach final agreement in talks with the Kurds — who are mostly

Sunni Muslim but secular — and the Sunni Arabs.

Ali al-Dabagh, a member of the United Iraqi Alliance, which won the most seats in the elections, said Tuesday that Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni Arab politicians would meet after the deputies are sworn in "to finalize things. We need two to three days to announce an agreement."

No timetable for troops to leave Iraq, says Bush

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Wednesday he understands the desire of U.S. coalition partners to withdraw troops from Iraq, but he declined to set a timetable for bringing American forces home and said he hoped others would also stay the course.

"Our troops will come home when Iraq is capable of defending herself," Bush told reporters.

Bush spoke a day after Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced plans to start drawing down his country's 3,000-strong contingent in Iraq amid widespread anger over the recent killing of an Italian officer by U.S. troops.

Some 14 nations have withdrawn troops since the U.S.-led March 2003 invasion of Iraq. In a news conference at the White House, Bush said he had spoken by telephone to Berlusconi earlier in the day and they talked about how Iraq and a Bush's recommendation of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolf-

owitz to become head of the World Bank.

"He wanted me to know that there was no change in his policy, that, in fact, any withdrawals would be done in consultation with allies and would be done depending upon the ability of Iraqis to defend themselves," Bush said.

Bush shrugged off a question about detainees being sent by the United States back to their home countries, where they could be tortured.

"The United States must make sure we protect our people and our friends from attack. One way to do so is arrest people and send them back" to their home countries, he said. "We seek assurances that no one will be tortured."

On Iraq, Bush denied that what the administration has called the "coalition of the willing" was crumbling.

Bush also praised Iraq for Wednesday's opening session of the country's first freely elected parliament in half a century.

Bush called the meeting "a bright moment" in Iraq's history.

Gen. Myers: Afghanistan may be host to long-term U.S. bases

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — America's top general said Wednesday that Afghanistan is secure and the United States is considering keeping long-term bases here as it repositions its military forces around the world.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Taliban religious militia was "essentially in disarray" since failing to disrupt Afghanistan's landmark presidential election last year. "Security is very good throughout the country, exceptionally good," Myers told reporters at Kabul airport after talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and U.S. commanders.



Myers

Myers said no decision had been reached on whether to seek permanent bases on Afghan soil.

"But clearly we've developed good relationships and good partnerships in this part of the world, not only in Afghanistan," he said, also mentioning existing U.S. bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

"That'll all be considered as we go forward with the whole global basing construct," he said. "Clearly the United States has an interest in the long-term security and stability in Afghanistan, so we'll be discussing that future relationship."

The Afghan government has said it is seeking a "strategic partnership" with the United States spanning economic and political ties as well as military. It has yet to say whether that would include permanent U.S. bases in the country, which neighbors Iran, Pakistan and oil-rich Central Asia.

Three years after driving out the Taliban for harboring Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, the U.S. military has about 17,000 soldiers in Afghanistan

and operates air bases at Bagram, Kandahar in the south and Jalalabad in the east.

Taliban-led militants continue to mount regular ambushes and roadside bombings, and there is a danger from explosives left over from Afghanistan's more than 20 years of conflict.

On Wednesday, a Humvee carrying U.S. military police near a U.S. base in Shindand, in the west near the Iranian border, hit a land mine, killing one soldier and injuring four. One suffered a severe back injury, another was in stable condition and two were treated and returned to duty. None of the soldiers were identified.

Maj. Steve Wollman, a U.S. spokesman, said the mine was apparently laid during one of Afghanistan's earlier wars. A search of the area found no sign it was recent.

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Blast outside U.S. bases kills four Iraqis

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and another 17 wounded Wednesday when a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint outside the gates of Forward Operating Bases Warhorse and Scuncheon.

Some U.S. troops first thought the explosion was a planned blast to destroy enemy bombs. But the blast wasn't planned, at least not by the U.S. soldiers, who were soon scrambling to save their comrades in the Iraqi army.

"They're just here to do their jobs, to help," said Sgt. Charles Graham. "To me, losing one of them is like losing one of us."

Soldiers from Graham's unit, the 2nd Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, arrived on the scene from Scuncheon as Iraqi soldiers piled the casualties into the backs of their white Toyota pickups. The casualties were driven to the gate at FOB Warhorse and met by U.S. medics and combat ambulances from Warhorse's clinic.

"It was pretty messy," said Graham, whose unit had performed missions with the same group of Iraqi soldiers. "A lot of guys were injured by shrapnel. There was a lot of blood, a lot of blood."

All of the casualties were members of the 204th Iraqi Army Battalion. There was no immediate word if there were civilian casualties.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

A wounded Iraqi soldier is treated by medics from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Team, 42nd Infantry Division, after a car bomb exploded Wednesday morning in Baqouba, Iraq.

alties. No U.S. soldiers were wounded.

Graham's soldiers secured the scene, and the frantic Iraqis were met at Warhorse's gate by medics from Company C, 203rd Forward Support Battalion. In the minutes after

the 8:43 a.m. blast, the clinic received radio reports that four were wounded, then eight, nine and 16. It sent more help as the casualty estimate rose.

At the gate, the medics sifted through the

carnage.

"The first two guys I saw were dead," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Louris. "We moved them out of the way to get to the other guys."

"We tried to get the most critical guys [to the clinic first]," he said.

Once at the clinic, called the Teal Medical Facility, the wounded were carried on stretchers from the ambulances into the clinic and its waiting team.

Others weren't so lucky.

Besides the two Iraqi soldiers who died at the scene, one was declared dead at the front gate of Warhorse and the fourth died on the operating table, according to Dr. (Maj.) Andy Magnat, brigade surgeon for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, which is based at FOB Warhorse.

In addition to those killed, eight Iraqi soldiers were evacuated for treatment to the 31st Combat Support Hospital at Logistics Support Area Anisconda about 30 miles to the west. Eight Iraqi soldiers were treated and returned to duty. One was scheduled to stay overnight at the Warhorse clinic.

According to Maj. Adnan Gassan, one of the Iraqis in charge, the car bomber drove past him at the checkpoint before detonating his blast. The driver, Gassan said, was a boy who appeared to be 13 or 14 years old.

All four of those who died were married with children, Gassan said.

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Americans: Iraq better off, but war not worth fighting

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Two years after President Bush led the country to war in Iraq, Americans appear to be of two minds about the situation in the Middle East: A majority say they believe Iraqis are better off today than they were before the conflict began — but they also say the war was not worth fighting in the first place, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News Poll.

The January elections in Iraq have clearly helped to shift public opinion in a positive direction about the future of Iraq and the rest of the Middle East, with a clear majority of Americans (56 percent) saying they are now confident that Iraqi leaders will be able to create a stable government there, a dramatic turn-

around since just before the election. The poll also shows that more Americans believe the war has improved the chances of democracy spreading in the Middle East than who say it has diminished these prospects.

Despite the optimism about the future, the poll suggests there has been little change in the negative public opinion about the fundamental decision to go to war: 53 percent of Americans said the war was not worth fighting, 57 percent said they disapprove of the president's handling of Iraq and 70 percent said the number of U.S. casualties, including more than 1,500 deaths, is an unacceptable price to pay there.

The poll was conducted by telephone March 10-13 among 1,001 randomly selected adults nationwide. Margin of sampling error is three percentage points.

Iraqis happy with direction, poll says

Stars and Stripes

More Iraqis believe their country is headed in the right direction and fewer think it's going wrong than at any time since the U.S. invasion two years ago, according to a new poll.

The poll, by the International Republican Institute, to have been made public Wednesday, also found that nearly half of Iraqis believe that religion has a special role to play in government, USA Today reported in its Wednesday editions.

The survey of 1,967 Iraqis

was conducted Feb. 27-March 5, USA Today reported. According to the poll, 62 percent say the country is headed in the right direction and 23 percent say it is not.

In September, 45 percent of Iraqis thought the country was headed in the wrong direction and 42 percent thought it was headed in the right direction. The IRI is a nonpartisan, U.S. taxpayer-funded group that promotes democracy abroad.

Pollsters did not survey three of Iraq's 18 provinces because of security and logistical concerns.

AF secretary to retire

WASHINGTON — Acting Air Force Secretary Peter Teets will retire by the end of this month after only two months on the job, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper said Wednesday.

Jumper's comments came during testimony by both men before the House Armed Services Committee. Teets took over the post when former secretary James Roche retired Jan. 20.

Sources said he will be retiring from both jobs on March 25, and that Michael L. Dominguez, currently assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, will take over as secretary.

Teets is the retired president of Lockheed Martin Corp. and has held jobs with several other prominent aerospace firms.

—Leo Shane

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IN THE STATES

DOD mail anthrax scare was false alarm

BY LAURA MECKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An apparent mix-up at a Richmond, Va., laboratory is being blamed for the anthrax scare that closed three area mail facilities that handle Pentagon-bound mail, and prompted nearly 900 workers to receive antibiotics.

The two-day scare that recalled the fatal bioterrorism attacks of 2001 turned out to be a false alarm after definitive tests at two facili-

ties came back negative Tuesday for the deadly spores.

Officials believe the confusion stemmed from a mistake at the laboratory that did the initial testing, and the mistaken conclusion was confirmed by a Defense Department laboratory at Fort Detrick, Md.

The working theory is that workers at the initial laboratory, Commonwealth Biotechnology Inc. in Richmond, contaminated the sample taken from the Pentagon with actual anthrax that is kept on hand

for comparison purposes, a Homeland Security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday. That would explain why the sample came back as positive for anthrax.

That initial sample, possibly already contaminated, was then delivered to Fort Detrick, which confirmed the presence of anthrax.

"It had already been handled by the contractor," said Carree Vander Linden, spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick.

Later tests proved negative and officials realized the initial error, officials said.

Robert Harris, chief operating officer of Commonwealth Biotechnology, said it is premature to conclude that there was contamination at his lab and said testing is ongoing.

"The issue of contamination is questionable," he said. He said he still believes that the original sample might have been "a true positive sample" for anthrax. "That's a possibility at this point."

He said his company does daily

testing on swabs taken from filters at the Pentagon mail facility.

Warning signs at the two Pentagon mail facilities on Monday led to the comprehensive testing. Nearly 900 workers were given precautionary antibiotics, and officials closed three mail facilities, including two that serve the Pentagon.

In 2001 anthrax-by-mail attacks killed five people and panicked Americans still raw from the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Since then scores of initial tests in government mailrooms have falsely reported anthrax.

Judge affirms death penalty for Scott Peterson

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — A judge formally sentenced Scott Peterson to death Wednesday after family members got into a shouting match and Laci Peterson's mother sobbed as she called her son-in-law "an evil murderer."

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi allowed only Laci's family members to speak at the hearing after indicating he believed the death penalty was warranted.

Peterson's father yelled from the audience as Laci's brother, Brent Rocha, spoke

to the court, saying, "Laci and Conner are the true victims here."

"What a liar!" Lee Peterson said before the judge admonished him and he stormed out of the courtroom. Jackie Peterson, Scott Peterson's mother, also interrupted Rocha but her voice was inaudible.

Scott Peterson, 32, was invited to make a statement. After several minutes of discussion with his attorneys, he declined.

Delucchi denied a defense request for a new trial before upholding the jury's recommendation that Peterson be sentenced to death.

"The court is satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Scott Lee Peterson, is guilty of first-degree murder" and second degree, Delucchi said, adding that he found the killings "were cruel, uncaring, heartless and callous."

Peterson, shackled at the waist and wearing a dark suit, showed no emotion throughout the hearing.

Peterson will be sent to death row at San Quentin State Prison within 48 hours, said San Mateo County Sheriff's Lt. Lisa Williams.

The infamous lockup overlooks the same bay where Laci Peterson's body was discarded.

Peterson was convicted in November of first-degree murder in the killing of Laci and second-degree murder for the slaying of her fetus. A jury recommended the death penalty a month later.

Peterson's attorney, Mark Geragos, tried to get the judge to allow Peterson's parents, Jackie and Lee Peterson, to speak, on the basis that they were related to Conner.

But the judge said the hearing was an opportunity for Laci's relatives to speak only. He ordered Scott Peterson to pay \$10,000 restitution for funeral expenses and an additional \$5,000, though the reason for that amount was unexplained.

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Robert Blake acquitted of murder

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A jury acquitted tough-guy actor Robert Blake of murder Wednesday in the shooting death of his wife four years ago, bringing a stunning end to a case that played out like pulp fiction.

The jury also acquitted Blake of one charge of trying to get someone to kill his wife, but deadlocked on a second solicitation charge. The jury voted 11-1 in favor of acquittal and the judge dismissed the count.

The 71-year-old star of the 1970s detective drama "Baretta" dropped his head, trembled with emotion and sobbed heavily as the verdict was read.

The adult daughter of Blake's wife sobbed quietly in the back of the courtroom.

The jury of seven men and five women delivered the verdicts on its ninth day of deliberations, following a trial with a cast of characters that included two Hollywood stuntmen who said Blake tried to get them to bump off his wife.

Blake had faced life in prison; prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.


Blake was charged with shooting 44-year-old Bonny Lee Bakley in their car outside the actor's favorite Italian restaurant on May 4, 2001, less than six months after their marriage.

No eyewitnesses, blood or DNA evidence linked Blake to the crime. The murder weapon, found in a trash bin, could not be traced to Blake, and witnesses said the minuscule amounts of gunshot residue found on Blake's hands could have come from a different gun he said he carried for protection.

Prosecutors said Blake believed his wife trapped him into a loveless marriage by getting pregnant. They said Blake soon became smitten with the baby, Rosie, and desperately wanted to keep the child away from Bakley, whom he considered an unfit mother.

Rosie, now 4, is being raised by Blake's adult daughter.

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ARAI presently (March 3, 2005) has well over 21 feet of snow now up top. With the weather forecast calling for snow daily well into March/April and borders can still look forward to lots of fresh powder this white season at ARAI. Given the amount of snow, this year the white season of the resort will continue well into May! If you are planning a trip to ARAI, please check the daily weather reports in English via the above URL. Access is seamless via the nearest highway interchange only 10 minutes away (maps and directions in English also available via the above URL).

ARAI offers complimentary lift tickets to elementary school aged children every Sunday through April 3, 2005. See the above URL for further details.

See you at ARAI!

Bush taps Wolfowitz as World Bank head

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday tapped Defense Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who has been a lightning rod for criticism of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and other defense policies, to take over as head of the World Bank.

Bush told a news conference that Wolfowitz, 61, now Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's top deputy, was "a compassionate, decent man who will do a fine job at the World Bank."

James Wolfensohn is stepping down as head of the 184-nation development bank on June 1 at the end of his second five-year term.

The United States is the World Bank's largest shareholder. The bank traditionally has had an American president and its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, traditionally has been headed by a European.

Wolfowitz was among the most forceful of those in the Bush administration in arguing that Iraq's Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, and he had predicted that Americans would be welcomed as liberators once they toppled Saddam's government.

The World Bank's 24-member board will vote on Bush's selection; approval is expected.

Senate OKs ANWR drilling

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid the backdrop of soaring oil and gasoline prices, a sharply divided Senate on Wednesday voted to open the ecologically rich Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, delivering a major energy policy win for President Bush.

The Senate, by a 51-49 vote, rejected an attempt by Democrats and GOP moderates to remove a refuge drilling provision from next year's budget, preventing opponents from using a filibuster.

The action, assuming Congress agrees on a budget, clears the way for approving drilling this year, drilling supporters said.

The oil industry has sought for more than two decades to get access to what is believed to be billions of barrels of oil beneath the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Environmentalists have argued that despite improved environmental controls, a web of pipelines and drilling platforms would harm calving caribou, polar bears and millions of migratory birds that use the coastal plain.

Bush has called tapping ANWR's oil a critical part of the nation's energy security.

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		Manila	\$385

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Sunday	Awaits Club	
Early Service 0830	Monthly	
Sunday School 1000	Mens Prayer Breakfast	1st Sat
Morning Service 1100	Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
Evening Service 1800		
Monday		
Faith Bible Institute 1830		
Tuesday		
Soul Winning & Visitation 1830		
Wednesday		
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg 1900		
Patch & Pee Wee Clubs 1900		

Saturday, March 19, 2005
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Revival 3-10 April

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16
Fussa Gate Term Gate
At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

IN THE WORLD

N. Korea won't deal with Rice

Nation bitterly refuses to discuss nuclear issues with U.S. official

BY BURT HERMAN

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea bitterly refused Wednesday any dealings with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, as the top U.S. diplomat began a six-day visit to Asia seeking a breakthrough over the two-year standoff over the North's nuclear weapons program.

The nuclear crisis deepened last month when North Korea announced it had nuclear weapons and said it would boycott international disarmament talks because of U.S. hostility toward its government.

Rice is to visit South Korea on Saturday after a stop in Japan, and will meet with President Roh Moo-hyun and other top officials before heading to China for more consultations on the crisis.

North Korea was angered in

January when Rice labeled it one of the world's "outposts of tyranny." She has refused to withdraw the remark, and said it reflects the truth about the communist country.

"It is quite illogical for the U.S. to intend to negotiate with [North Korea] without retracting its remarks listing its dialogue partner as 'an outpost of tyranny,'" an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Rice "can make nothing but such outcries as she is no more than an official of the most tyrannical dictatorial state in the world," the North's official Korean Central News Agency quoted the spokesman as saying. "Such [a] woman bereft of any political logic is not the one to be dealt with by us. Her reckless remarks showed to the world what type of a woman she is."



U.S. EMBASSY/AP

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice receives flowers from Pakistani children upon her arrival Wednesday in Islamabad, Pakistan. Rice is touring Asia and is scheduled to visit South Korea on Saturday where she will meet with President Roh Moo-hyun to discuss the two-year standoff with the North over its nuclear weapons program.

The North also repeated that it would "bolster its nuclear arsenal for self-defense." U.S. officials have repeatedly said they don't intend to attack North Korea.

Rice told reporters Tuesday that the United States continues to believe the nuclear standoff should be solved through six-nation disarmament talks and will refuse the North's repeated demands for direct talks with Washington.

However, the chief U.S. negotiator in the six-way talks, Christopher Hill, said Tuesday the United States might seek other means if no progress is made.

Three rounds of talks among China, Japan, Russia, the two Koreas and the United States have been held in Beijing since 2002, with no breakthrough. A fourth round scheduled for last September was canceled when North Korea refused to attend.

"Clearly this can't go on forever," Hill told a Senate committee considering his nomination as assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. "We need to see some progress here and if we don't, we need to look at other ways to deal with this because there is one option that is not available to us — and that is to walk away from this problem."

Russian plane crashes

MOSCOW — A Russian airliner carrying 55 people north of the Arctic Circle crashed and caught fire Wednesday while attempting to land, killing at least 29 people, a government ministry said. It said 24 people survived.

Deputy Emergency Situations Minister Gennady Korotkin said witnesses reported the An-24 turboprop aircraft's tail broke up before the crash and that the plane was making a forced landing at an airport near the oil port of Varandei about 1,100 miles northeast of Moscow.

Jericho handed over

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops on Wednesday took down their national flag, removed a roadblock and handed the town of Jericho to Palestinian control, boosting stop-and-go Mideast peace efforts and sending a message to ordinary Palestinians that ending a violent uprising is starting to pay off.

Symbolic steps turned practical as Israel removed one of three roadblocks around the isolated desert oasis, allowing free travel to the rest of the West Bank. Israeli soldiers stopped checking cars entering Jericho — a boost for the town's economy — and for Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to show his people he can get results as he seeks to renew a peace process with Israel.

From The Associated Press



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FACES

Message from The Metal God

BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes

Legendary metal singer Rob Halford is back with a vengeance, once again commanding center stage with the reunited British heavy metal pioneers Judas Priest.

More than 4,000 leather- and denim-clad heavy metal maniacs packed the Stadthalle in Offenbach, Germany, as Halford and band mates Glenn Tipton, K.K. Downing, Ian Hill and Scott Travis ripped through an explosive two-hour, 22-song set.

The intensity of the band and crowd was electrifying, as fans ranging in age from 16 to 60 were treated to several classics such as "Breaking the Law," and "Living After Midnight" — along with four killer cuts from the band's new album, "Angel of Retribution," which was released March 1.

Backstage following the Offenbach performance, Halford spoke with Stars and Stripes and offered words of encouragement for U.S. troops fighting the war on terrorism at home and abroad.

"Right now, I have friends serving in Iraq, onboard the USS Stennis and in Guam, and the work they are doing is incredibly important, not only for America but the

Judas Priest singer Rob Halford praises U.S. troops across the world as band kicks off new tour

Judas Priest's Rob Halford takes the stage and is greeted by a thunderous ovation at the Stadthalle in Offenbach, Germany, on Friday.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes



entire world. I fully support what they're doing," he said.

Halford, who cites San Diego as one of his favorite hangouts, said he became friends with many sailors and Marines from the nearby

Navy bases and the sprawling
Camp Pendleton.

"I've spent a lot of time in America and have several friends in the U.S. military all over the world," said Halford.

GIs have always been big fans and supporters of Judas Priest and Halford's three solo bands: Fight, Two and Halford.

"Everyone in the band supports all [the troops], and we sincerely

wish them the best and a safe return home to their families," he said.

During the concert, Priest performed several other standout tracks, such as "Beyond the Realms of Death" and an acoustic version of "Diamonds and Rust." The highlight of the night came with the band's mesmerizing performance of "Victim of Changes" from the "Sad Wings of Destiny" album.

Servicemembers in Europe and Japan will have a chance to catch the metal legends. Starting Wednesday, Judas Priest rolls through the United Kingdom for 11 shows.

From there, Priest will make stops in Holland, Germany, Poland, Austria, Italy, Portugal and will wrap up the European leg on April 17 with three dates in Spain. After a short break, the band heads to Japan and will play seven shows May 8-18. Plans are under way for a North American summer tour.

For information on tour dates, locations and tickets, see www.judaspriest.com and concert listings in Sunday's Stars and Stripes® Scene magazine. For lively metal discussion, check out The Metal God's Quorum message board at www.robbalford.com

E-mail Ray Conway at:
conwayr@mail.eastrines.osd.mil

[illegible]



University of Maryland University College

Since UMUC began offering classes in Asia almost 50 years ago, its greatest single strength has been the quality of its faculty. Here are brief profiles of three of our faculty members who teach regularly in Japan.



Aline Skoog

- Taught with UMUC in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Russia, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, and online distance education
- M.B.A. in international management from Monterey Institute of International Studies
- Employment experience in Saudi Arabia and Singapore
- "Global business is dynamic; it is the future. Information is power. I have the opportunity to help students gain the power to be part of the future of global business. That's exciting!"

Paul Lattimore



- M.S. in biology and Ph.D. in botany
- Extensive teaching and research experience throughout the U.S.
- Has taught with UMUC in Asia at Misawa, the Tokyo area, and Iwakuni, and in the DE program
- "Our courses in biology, botany, and environmental science enable students to understand the natural world and some of the developments of our time, such as global warming, cloning, and stem cell research, or other developments that have been important and controversial."



Kenneth Smith

- Holds an M.B.A. degree and a Doctor of Arts in economics
- Taught at several different U.S. institutions and managed his own consulting business
- With UMUC taught in Russia, Korea, Japan, and the DE program, and served as Academic Director for business and management
- "Teaching on military installations is a way in which we can give something back to all soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Business and economics become more exciting as rapid globalization continues. Not only is business education important, it is becoming necessary."

For further background on these and other faculty members, and a wide range of information on courses and programs, check the UMUC Asia Web site at:

<http://www.asia.umuc.edu>

Term IV classes begin March 28.

YOUR MONEY

As high gas prices soar, saving is key

By JAMES A. FUSSELL
The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Talk about gas pains. If analysts are right, because of rising gasoline prices we'll pay an extra \$100 this year just to drive around. It's enough to get you down every time you fill 'er up.

Back up, drivers. You can do numerous things to recoup that money — and much more.

Sure, there are the old strategies of carpooling, taking the bus or garaging that gas guzzler.

But what you want to save money, right? So we've looked beyond transportation to find other ways to make that \$100 and more. These tips just may make the price at the pump a little less painful.

■ **Eat your lunch to work.** If you usually spend \$7 on lunch, replacing just two of those lunches a week with a sack lunch from home that costs around a dollar will save you more than \$500 a year.

■ **Buy a programmable "setback" thermostat.** Most are less than \$50. Unless you're the most disciplined thermostat hawk on the planet, it will quickly pay for itself by eliminating wasteful heating and cooling cycles when you're out or asleep.

■ **Weatherize your home.** Install storm doors and windows, caulk around drafty places and make sure your attic is properly insulated with R-30 insulation.

■ **Check your water heater.** It's the second largest energy sucker in the home. Set it on medium, a more-than-adequate 120 degrees, instead of the very high 140 degrees, and save 1 percent on your bill.

■ **Take shorter showers and install energy-efficient showerheads.**

■ **Find sales and buy in bulk,** provided there is no limit



Chris Ramo of San Diego pumps gas at Costco on Tuesday in San Diego. With gas prices climbing, it's a good time to look beyond transportation at other ways to cut costs.

on quantity, you can use items before the expiration date and you have enough storage. For example, a Lenexa Hy-Vee recently offered 18-ounce jars of Peter Pan peanut butter, regularly priced at \$1.99, for \$1. Buy one jar and save about \$1. Buy 50 jars and save \$50.

■ **Use the Internet to find the lowest price.** Compare prices on sites such as Yahoo Shopping and My Simon; discount air, travel and rental car sites such as Hotwire and Priceline; and auction sites such as eBay and 1-8id.

■ **Don't assume discount stores are cheaper.** Wal-Mart charges \$2.94 for 12 ounces of Herbal Essense shampoo, 55 cents less than the regular Hen House price. However, a recent Hen House sale dropped the price to \$2.79.

■ **Pay off credit cards each month.** If you have to run a balance, get a card with a low-fixed interest rate, as low as 4.9 percent. Many store credit cards charge double-digit rates. Do a little research.

■ **Tap TV movies.** For every movie you tape, you save \$2 to \$4. Plus, you can keep them as long as you want without any late fees. And don't forget libraries, which have a large, free selection.

■ **And finally, there's this from car experts.** If you just have to save money on gasoline, slow down. Remember, the faster you go, the faster you'll need to fill up.

Career changer needs a new car

Dear Tom and Ray:
I recently left a career as a pizza-delivery driver to work for an architectural photographer. It involved changing cities and giving up what little social life I had. In short, I'm rethinking the decision, and I'm thinking about going back to the pizza business. My question for you folks is this: The vehicle I bought for my new job is much too nice to use for delivering pizzas. It is a 2003 VW GTI VR6. Plus, I won't be able to afford the payments on the pizza salary. So, I'm going to return to the night shift at my old job. I'm going to need a cheap car that gets reasonable gas mileage (low 20s to high teens is OK) and is relatively easy to work on. I can spend about \$5,000, and I'm pretty handy with a wrench. I was thinking about a Toyota, because I hear they are very reliable. Any help you can offer would be appreciated, and if you're ever in Gainesville, Fla., and get hungry, give Five Star a call and tell them Bo sent you. — Bo

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: What happened, Bo? Not as many women answering the door in their nightgowns in the architectural-photography business?

RAY: You definitely need something much more pathetic-looking if you want any chance of getting decent tips. If the pizza-delivery guy is driving a nicer car than the guy who's buying the pizza, you're going to have tough time getting sympathy.

TOM: You certainly could buy a Toyota Corolla. They're easy to find, reliable and economical. And you can probably get a 5- or 6-year-old one for \$5,000. You really can't go wrong with one of those, and it meets all of your requirements.

RAY: But why not really go for the sympathy, Bo? I see you in a 1987 Hyundai Excel, blue jeans, belching out the back from bad rages... one headlight working.

TOM: Plus, it's got vinyl seats, so you can just wipe up the melted mozzarella and spilled tomato sauce. Try doing that with your beautiful Toyota Velour! Good luck, Bo.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, 1000 Lakeside Drive, Suite 100, Berkeley, Calif. 94709. Cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES					
	52-week High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	52-week High
DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS	10,584.45	9,702.40	18,801.51	+0.15	10,584.45
S&P 500	1,389.97	1,243.46	3,884.60	+0.21	1,389.97
NASDAQ	353.82	258.98	302.62	+0.67	353.82
NYSE COMPOSITE	7,455.08	6,211.33	1,742.59	+0.26	7,455.08
AMEX	1,539.14	1,150.14	1,482.59	+0.26	1,539.14
RUSSELL 2000	1,911.29	1,728.92	2,035.14	+0.44	1,911.29
NYSE MIDCAP	1,225.11	1,064.72	549.50	+0.46	1,225.11
S&P MIDCAP	683.36	549.78	615.51	+0.81	683.36
NYSE SMALLCAP	656.11	515.59	580.00	+0.86	656.11
DOW JONES	12,108.33	10,245.22	11,909.49	+0.15	12,108.33

NYSE					
MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)					
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
Apple	2,500,000	+1.00	+0.02	100.00	75.00
Amazon	2,000,000	+0.88	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Microsoft	1,500,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Time Warner	1,200,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Oracle	1,000,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
IBM	900,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
General Electric	800,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Merck	700,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Johnson & Johnson	600,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
GlaxoSmithKline	500,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Novartis	400,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	300,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
United Technologies	200,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
3M	100,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Eastman Chemical	80,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Northrop Grumman	70,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	60,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	50,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	40,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	30,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	20,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	10,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	5,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	2,500	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	1,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	500	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	250	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	100	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	50	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	25	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	10	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	5	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	2	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	1	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
Boeing	1,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Lockheed Martin	800	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Northrop Grumman	600	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	500	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	400	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	300	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	200	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	100	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	50	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	25	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	10	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	5	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	2	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Boeing	1	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
Fidelity Asset Manager	1,000	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	800	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	600	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	400	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	200	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	100	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	50	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	25	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	10	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	5	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	2	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00
Fidelity Asset Manager	1	+0.75	+0.01	100.00	75.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (March 17)	102.00
South Korean won (March 16)	978.00
Euro cents (March 16)	66.50
British pound (March 16)	51.77
British pound (March 16)	51.77
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.9122
Denmark (Krone)	5.9227
Egypt (Pound)	51.314/4.751
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.795
Hungary (Forint)	184.43
Iceland (Krona)	66.985
Israel (Sheqel)	1.4843
Japan (Yen)	104.45
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.4122
Philippines (Peso)	48.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5400
South Korea (Won)	1,000.00
Switzerland (Franc)	75.00
Thailand (Baht)	38.45
Turkey (Lira)	1.4846
(Military exchange rates are those available from customers at military bank facilities in the country of issuance for the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.)	
(U.S. purchasing British pounds in Germany) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference in buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars to pound, and the euro, which is dollars to euro.)	

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold	\$440.00
Silver	\$7.77

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	5.50
3-month bill	5.50
6-month bill	5.50
1-year bill	5.50
2-year bill	5.50
3-year bill	5.50
5-year bill	5.50
10-year bill	5.50
30-year bill	5.50
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Creating job luck

MarketWatch
NEW YORK — Some people just have all the luck when it comes to their careers. Or do they? Susan RoAne, author of the new book "How to Create Your Own Luck," says these seemingly fortunate people are really outstanding networkers who aren't afraid to make career changes. She mentions some traits that help them get ahead:

■ **They talk to strangers.** Simple conversations can turn into great opportunities and generate great ideas. You never know who you'll meet.

■ **They make small talk.** Take a personal interest and make time to get to know the people you see every day. When you ask, "How are you?" really listen to the answer.

■ **The drop names.** Name-dropping isn't necessarily bragging about how well connected you are. Finding a friend or acquaintance in common creates a more personal connection, and opens new doors.

■ **They eavesdrop and listen.**

Paying attention to what goes on around you can put you in a good position to ask for, or offer, help. It's also a fantastic way to learn about your field — where it's headed, what is needed and who the people of importance are.

■ **They ask for or offer help.** You don't have to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps. Lucky people know there's no shame in asking for help when you need it or in offering it when you can.

■ **They stray from the path.** Talent isn't just something that results from training or a specific education. Use all your skills for success, not just those in which you have formal training. It can help you if you switch careers or want to combine talents to take your job in a new direction.

■ **They make timely, gracious exits without burning bridges.** Know when to leave your job or end a career. Aim to leave on a high note, so you are still well-respected and maintain your contacts and relationships.

STARS AND STRIPES

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GIs also require no curfew

March 1 was a day of great rejoicing for Department of Defense contractors working in South Korea; the curfew imposed on us late last year by U.S. Forces Korea leaders was lifted — a curfew of dubious origin and purpose that most feel should never have been imposed in the first place.

I've had my few days to rejoice and glow, but I am still very much aware that my comrades in arms, the active-duty U.S. military personnel stationed here, are still burdened with this curfew. A curfew is something that should only be imposed as a punitive measure or to protect personnel during a period of increased tensions. There is absolutely no reason that mature, grown adults should have to live under a perpetual curfew when there is no obvious reason for it.

Yes, there is still the potential for armed conflict with North Korea, and yes, we need to maintain a degree of readiness, but the curfew really does nothing to improve readiness. It only means that military personnel go down town earlier, get drunk earlier, and go home earlier. What is the benefit to readiness?

As far as I can tell, the curfew exists for only one reason: to reduce the number of alcohol incidents among active-duty U.S. military and to reduce the wrath [those incidents] may cause military commanders. That is not a good enough reason to trample on the freedoms of the 90 percent to 95 percent of the active-duty military personnel who know how to behave themselves while drinking off base.

If a commander has to do some extra paperwork for one bad soldier, he or she should view that as a small sacrifice for the thousands of soldiers who know how to behave themselves. Why does sacrifice only work in one direction?

A curfew might be the easy way to go, but it certainly is not the right way to go.

It's truly unfortunate that active-duty military personnel have no unit to go to for that reason. Those who must sacrifice the most to have the least voice of all.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles Layk (retired)
Sangtong, South Korea

'Old soldiers' can contribute

"Old GIs will serve in Iraq, but wars aren't uniform" (column, Joe Volz, Feb. 18) provided valuable insight on how the Army and Marines are signing up retired soldiers and Marines to beef up overworked forces.

Sounds very interesting. First of all, I meet the hundreds of thousands of years of experience operating fuel trucks and supply-related storage, receipt-and-issue activities. I would, however, prefer to serve in a civilian capacity for the simple (yet important) reason: "to earn tax-free dollars or euros" in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Doonesbury

GOOD NEWS SCOTT! I GOT YOU A NEW PATER FOR YOUR PRESS ROOM!

ROLAND HELEY, JUST GO TO HIM AGAIN THE PACK STARTS ACTING UP. HE'LL LOB YOU A LAFFER.

ROLAND? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

POSITIVE HE'S NEW! HE'LL BE A BOOK.

SCOTT, HAD TO GO TO THE HATE AMER. ICA?

GOOD QUESTION, ACTUALLY.



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forts put forth by units who have come in contact with the enemy during their missions of moving supplies and so forth. But there is a different story for the chemical company which I served as a platoon leader.

This past year, I, along with other soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers, have been attached to a field artillery and armor unit. Our company fought under the same mission statement as the field artillery and armor platoons.

But due solely to military occupational specialty classification, those chemical soldiers who engaged in direct ground combat with the enemy alongside the field artillery and armor platoon are not eligible for what their comrades will be awarded.

I understand we are a small exception to the rule, but all soldiers and officers with an infantry mission, regardless of MOS and branch, should be eligible for the CCB.

1st Lt. Dorothy Butala

Baghdad

Putting their lives on the line

I would have liked to have been the proverbial fly on the wall when both decisions were made as to who would qualify for the "new and improved" extension to non-commissioned bonuses and the Close Combat Badge.

As a career National Guardsman — and former active duty also — I have too many years in service to qualify, yet I have enough time left before retirement to qualify for the three-year bonus. It almost seems as if the "Army of One" has to be under age 35 or have fewer than 16 years experience to be wanted. It almost reeks of age discrimination.

At 55, I may not be able to run a 7-minute mile, do 100 sit-ups, or 75 push-ups; however, I can still do my job as well, or better, than I once could. Why not make the bonuses an Army-National Guard-wide program and reward all soldiers who are willing to defend our great country?

What military geniuses decided that soldiers with the 12, 13, and 19 military occupational specialties were the only ones who should qualify for the CCB? Although school-trained in both 11-series MOSs, I missed out on going to Vietnam due to other assignments during my active-duty years. The CCB is a very prestigious award and deserves to be worn only by 11-series soldiers. However, I am now deployed with a Tennessee Army National Guard unit in Iraq and all soldiers — drivers, men and crew-served gunners — are being tasked with convoy support. Due to not having the right MOS, many soldiers who are putting their lives on the line — or having it put on the line — will be denied a special recognition.

Did we come here for a badge? Of course not; however, we all would like to be recognized for putting it on the line.

Staff Sgt. Tommy B. Denison

Tallit Air Base, Iraq

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Not oppose to good that Iraq war can bring

BY MONA ELTAHAWY

The invasion of Iraq was the equivalent of a bucket of freezing water thrown in the face of an Arab world in deep slumber.

There, I've said it. Can we move on now? There is a way to talk about the effect of the Iraq war on the rest of the Arab world without actually supporting that war. This time last year and the year before, I marched in demonstrations in New York against the war on Iraq, which I did not believe was launched in the name of democracy and freedom. But we would be lying to ourselves if we didn't acknowledge that the United States' occupation of Iraq is a major catalyst for what has been happening lately, be it in Egypt, Lebanon or Saudi Arabia.

As an Egyptian man told me recently, if there was a "domino effect" sparked by the invasion, it was one of questions.

"The U.S. invasion revealed the ability to overthrow one of the worst tyrants around and led to this question: If this regime collapsed, why not the others? Why shouldn't Syria leave Lebanon? Why shouldn't we change the Egyptian regime? Isn't it enough (kifaya) already?"

Kifaya indeed. The word is the slogan of Egypt's National Campaign for Change, which has staged several demonstrations calling for an end to President Hosni Mubarak's 24-year rule. It has appeared on banners in anti-Syrian demonstrations in Beirut. But ultimately Arabs have been saying kifaya to violence. Beheadings, shock and awe, checkpoint shootings and the loss of thousands of lives in Iraq have sickened Arabs. It is no mean feat that demonstrations in Cairo and in Beirut — both for and against Syria — have been peaceful.

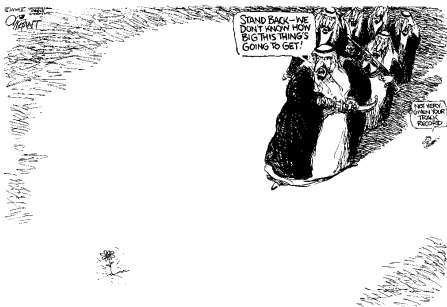
But I have a kifaya of my own: Enough already to the tiresome intellectual tropes that liberals and neoconservatives are wasting time on as they argue over the war.

In the United States it is almost impossible to separate support or opposition to the Bush administration from support for the democratic aspirations of Arabs. The endless tangle of "for" or "against" the war that the Bush administration and its opponents insist on dancing wastes time and conveniently ignores murky details both sides would prefer to forget.

I'm tired of having to remind those who supported the war of the moral failures of Abu Ghraib and of rendition, by which the United States sends terrorism suspects to countries — such as my own, Egypt — where they are likely to be tortured. The violence unleashed on Iraq is appalling and most often targets ordinary Iraqis whose numbers remain uncounted in this country and whose stories always lose out to the kidnappings and deaths of non-Iraqis.

I'm equally fed up with having to remind those who opposed the war that in their rush to condemn the Bush administration, they should not ignore or condone the continued tyranny of Arab leaders; that as vehemently as they oppose the Bush administration, they must not forget that Arab dictators are simply that — dictators.

And, no, I haven't forgotten that the current administration, like its predecessors, continues to support many of those same dictators. It's heartening to hear President Bush say that authoritarian rule in the Middle East is the "last gasp of a discredited



past" — but disappointing when he focuses only on Syria.

I'm still waiting for the Bush administration to urge Egypt to end emergency laws that have been in effect since Mubarak assumed power in 1981. I'm still waiting for the United States to urge the Saudi royal family to release reform activists whose only crime was to sign a petition calling for change.

Now what? We must not lose attention or interest. Just as I have acknowledged the jolt the Arab world felt from the Iraq war, so it is imperative to remember that if

there hadn't been civil societies already in place in the Arab world, such a jolt would have found no echo.

Brave Arab men and women have for decades toiled for the sake of rights and better lives for their communities.

Their work must be acknowledged and supported. The conversation about change in the Arab world must be about them and about ordinary Arabs, not about scoring points for or against the Bush administration.

Mona Eltahawy is a New York-based columnist for the pan-Arab publication Asharq al-Awsat. Her Web site is www.monaeltahawy.com. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

In China-Taiwan relations, status quo is a net gain

BY MONTE R. BULLARD

Global Beat Syndicate

GULF BREEZE, Fla. The United States and Taiwan should welcome China's efforts to formally define and codify its position on relations with Taiwan.

While it may not offer the answer some in Taiwan would hope for, it does mean movement by Beijing's leaders toward the rule of law — one of the legitimate concerns Taiwan's leaders have about China's ability to abide by future agreements.

Taiwan's leaders are correctly wary of any negotiated settlement with China because historically China has changed agreements too easily by executive fiat. The recent altering of the Hong Kong Basic Law is an example.

Involving the National People's Congress in the process is positive step. While the NPC used to be a pure rubber stamp for the Communist Party, over the past 25 years it has increased, in fits and starts, its voice in internal decision-making. That began when the NPC played a role in calling to account government incompetence in the Potala Gulf oil-rig disaster of 1979, and began to grow in voice and power until it was severely constrained again after the Tiananmen demonstrations in 1989.

Over the years younger, more active and more competent people have been elected to its ranks, and while it has not reached the point of being able to "check-and-balance" the Communist Party or even the government, the NPC is moving in that direction. This new anti-secession law could give the NPC more leverage in national decision-making.

Importantly, the new anti-secession law

should not be viewed as a legal framework for starting a war with Taiwan. Rather, it is part of the effort to pluralize decision-making in China and make it more difficult for just a few leaders to start a war with behind-closed-doors decisions.

Some NPC members come from provinces, counties or cities, such as Kunshan just outside Shanghai, which now are almost completely dependent on Taiwan. The more than 1 million Taiwanese who are permanent residents in China (living there more than 300 days a year); the more than 6,000 Taiwanese companies that hire millions of Chinese workers; and the more than \$100 billion of Taiwanese investment in China are all factors likely to influence some of those legislators as their role in negotiations between Beijing and the provinces becomes increasingly important.

Some have described the anti-secession law as a "war law." But Chinese officials insist that it offers no timetable for unification.

Rather, it is designed to counter any moves in Taiwan that are perceived as going too far in the direction of independence. That could help define the limits of what constitutes "moving too far" toward independence, thus introducing more certainty into the equation. Every time Beijing clarifies exactly which Taiwanese actions would result in war, the notion of starting a war falls on the shoulders of Taiwan's leaders, who continue to push the independence envelope.

While Taiwan's leaders are reacting angrily, and the anti-secession law may have short-term implications, both sides should avoid negotiating a long-term status for Taiwan. Both sides should recognize that

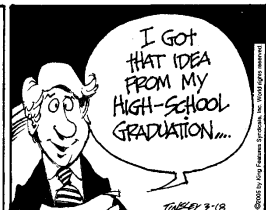
the status quo is the best solution in the short term — even if there are different definitions of the status quo. Both sides also should recognize that the long-term solution is neither total independence nor total unification. Some form of confederation will have to suffice.

Neither side should begin to create laws that hinder the search for a long-term solution, but both sides should create laws that help to establish a peaceful environment in which meaningful negotiations can take place 10 or 20 years down the road.

Meanwhile, the United States should quietly support the effort to move China steadily toward democratization through increased pluralization at the top.

Monte R. Bullard is the author "Strait Talk: Avoiding a Nuclear War between the United States and China Over Taiwan." He was a liaison officer in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing for several years before retiring to his column.

Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Hospitals fight order

IL CHICAGO — Four hospitals are resisting demands by Gov. Rod Blagojevich to shut down their medical waste incinerators. The hospitals are indicating they should be paid to recoup the cost of complying with air pollution laws. Last fall, Blagojevich backed community activists urging that the trash burners be shut down.

Split on slots

FL MIAMI — New Las Vegas-style slot machines were the thumbs-up for four betting sites in Broward County, but neighboring Miami-Dade County narrowly rejected a similar proposal.

The decision in Broward County clears the way for slot machines at two horse-racing tracks, one greyhound track and one jai alai site. The Miami-Dade plan would have allowed slots at three locations in the county.

The Broward proposal passed 57 percent to 43 percent, while the Miami-Dade plan received 47 percent of the vote.

Hit-and-run kills widow

NY ROME — An 84-year-old widow was killed by a hit-and-run driver in central New York as she walked from a hospital to her parked car, according to police.

Mary LuRusso had been visiting a cousin who was a patient. She was struck before 7 p.m. in the drive-through area near Rome Memorial Hospital's emergency room exit, police said. Someone found her and called hospital personnel, who brought her inside and attempted to save her, Detective Commander Edward Stevens said.

Own gun shoots boy, 7

OH COLUMBUS — A gun in a bookbag discharged in an elementary school classroom and the primary school student who brought it was shot in the hand, police said.

The injury to the 7-year-old was not believed to be life-threatening. Police were uncertain why the gun went off.

Columbus schools did not cancel classes, but some parents took their children from Leawood Elementary School. There were 15 children in class when the 45-caliber pistol gun went off, police Sgt. David Sicilian said.

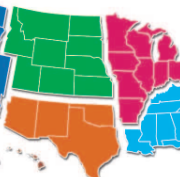
The boy's mother "indicated she had no idea where the weapon came from," Sicilian said.

State's drinking problem

ND MANDAN — A recent study from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health found more than 31 percent of North Dakotans age 12 and older said they had five or more drinks in one sitting during the month before the survey done in 2002 and 2003. The national average for binge drinking was 23 percent.

Binge use is defined as having five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in the last 30 days.

Bartender Laura Thompson, who owns the Old Town Tavern in Mandan with her husband, Roger, chuckled at that definition. She said nearly everyone in the bar's



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

weekly dart league would easily meet the criteria.

Nearly 55 percent of North Dakotans between the ages of 18 and 25 reported binge drinking. About 17 percent who were ages 12 to 17 and about 28 percent in the 26- and older category said they had five or more drinks in one sitting.

North Dakota's 11 percent rate of alcohol dependence and abuse also led the nation in the study.

Drug side effects tallied

DC WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration received more than 422,500 reports of drug side effects last year, a record, the agency said.

Final figures won't be available until spring but the preliminary estimate was confirmed by spokeswoman Laura Alvey.

That tops the 370,887 reports of what the agency calls "adverse events" in 2003.

Agency officials attribute the rise to increased use of prescription drugs rather than an increase in risk from the drugs.

Drug makers are required to tell the agency any instances of side effects reported to them and FDA also hears directly from patients and physicians.

Nurse admits to theft

PA CARLISLE — A nurse pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$25,000 from residents of the Lower Allen Township retirement community where she worked.

Mary Louise Ross, 47, pleaded



Wearing of the grin

Mark Floyd, 6, of Baltimore sports a toothless grin and his Irish green as he marches with his grandmother in Baltimore's St. Patrick's Day parade.

guilty to one count of theft by deception before Cumberland County Judge Kevin A. Hess. She remained in Dauphin County Prison on a parole violation for a 1992 crime.

Ross stole credit card information and checks from two residents of the Bethany Village retirement community from August to November 2001 and forged checks that she made payable to herself and businesses in her name, Senior Assistant District Attorney Michelle Sibert said.

Sprucing up fake lagoon

HI HONOLULU — Work could begin soon on a \$5 million project to restore the neglected saltwater lagoon at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. Hotel officials say they plan to make the 50-year-old man-made lagoon shallower, smaller and cleaner.

They also plan to install a public boardwalk around it.

These patients don't cry

ID POCATELLO — Doctors at Portneuf Medical Center recently found themselves treating an additional 770 patients — all dolls and stuffed animals.

The annual Teddy Bear Clinic drew a record turnout of children, who brought their dolls, teddy bears and other stuffed animals in need of medical attention.

The event was aimed at making a visit to the hospital less frightening for children.

"It's like they are the parent. They get to experience it from the other side," hospital spokeswoman Crista Madison Smith said.

Children expressed their animal's problems to a receptionist while checking the toy into the hospital. Officials reported stories like "My bear broke his leg by jumping on the bed" or "My sister bit him."

The children also helped doctors decide how to treat the toys.

"X-ray is popular," Smith said. "Casting was probably the most popular this year, but surgery is always fascinating to kids."

Heli-mushing is out

AK ANCHORAGE — The Bureau of Land Management ended plans for a heli-mushing camp on the Nenana Glacier near Denali National Park and Preserve this summer. Era Aviation anticipated shutting as many as 3,000 tourists to and from the glacier for sled dog races. However, stronger opposition arose from residents concerned about increased helicopter traffic and noise.

Bringing history alive

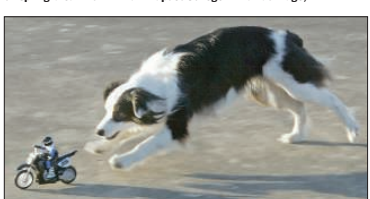
NV SPARKS — A gala marking Sparks' 100 years as a city will be held at the Sparks Heritage Museum. Plans called for a Pony Express rider to arrive at the museum with a proclamation from Gov. Kenny Guinn. Dr. Michael Fisher was to portray Gov. John Sparks, the city's namesake.

Watching the streets

TN NASHVILLE — The Nashville Police Department is going to use a network of surveillance cameras to monitor activities in areas with high crime rates, including the downtown nightspot section. Memphis installed a dozen cameras in the mid-1990s, but canceled the program because of technical problems.



When seagulls attack From left, Heather Burns, 18; Nikki Strickland, 19; and Julie Bishop, 18, all of Jonesboro, Ark., are mobbed by seagulls as they feed them at Gulf State Park public beach in Gulf Shores, Ala. The three are on spring break from William Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark.



What dogs dream about Katy, a border collie-Australian shepherd mix, chases a radio-control motorcycle driven by owner Kevin Puntigam of Roseburg, Ore., at Stewart Park in Roseburg.



Skater boy Christopher Sabo, 3, wears his skates on his hands after warmer temperatures made the ice too slushy for skating at the Oxford Youth Association rink in Oxford, N.J.



Containing a garage fire A firefighter prepares to fight a fire consuming an attached garage of a house in Worcester, Vt. Firefighters from five departments battled the blaze, saving the house from major damage and rescuing a family cat. No one was injured in the fire.



Shake your tailfeathers An Eastern wild turkey tom fans his tailfeathers as he and his two hens cross a rural road near Superior, Wis.



Birthday battle Civil War re-enactors with the 2nd U.S. Infantry, Company C, foreground, fire on Confederate re-enactors of the 30th North Carolina, Infantry Company K, during Living History Day at The Museum of the Waxhaws in Waxhaw, N.C. Living History Day celebrates President Andrew Jackson's birth on March 15, 1767, in the area.

Justice delayed 30 years

PA HARRISBURG — A man who killed his wife in 1969 pleaded guilty to walking away from prison while on furlough 30 years ago.

Allen D. Marshall, 63, was captured in Houston a year ago and brought back to Pennsylvania to finish serving his five- to 10-year sentence for voluntary manslaughter.

Marshall entered his plea under a 1973 prison breach charge, which carries a stiffer punishment than a prison-escape charge would today, said Cumberland County First Assistant District Attorney David Freed. He could face up to 10 more years for walking away from the prison when he is sentenced in May.

Alleged porn ring busted

TX DALLAS — A Colorado adult entertainment business owner and two Arlington residents face federal charges accusing them of participating in a multi-million dollar operation that illegally distributed pornography and underreported profits to avoid paying taxes.

Edward Wedelstedt, 62, of the Denver area, was accused of running a criminal enterprise in 18 states through his company, Goalie Entertainment Holdings Inc., and conspiring to defraud the government by not reporting large sums of cash income.

Two Arlington residents, Leroy Moore Sr., 64, and Beverly Kay Van Dusen, 46, were accused of conspiring to sell porn at Dallas-area stores and paying a percentage of revenues back to Wedelstedt's company.

A 23-count indictment alleged Goalie Entertainment managed bookstores that sold pornographic magazines, videos and products in the front and showed sexually explicit movies in back rooms to customers who purchased tokens.

Using their resources

HI HONOLULU — Lawmakers on Monday advanced a measure that would ease the way for a technology that uses cold water piped from the depths of the Pacific Ocean to cool Hawaii's tropical heat.

Known as seawater air conditioning, the method of cooling could reduce the state's dependency on fossil fuels by bringing down electricity needs, according to the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, which supports the bill.

Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns voted to pass the measure, which would exempt seawater air conditioning projects from public utility regulation.

Because the companies would not be the only providers of a service essential to public health and welfare, they do not need oversight from the public utilities commission, John Cole, executive director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy, said in written testimony to the committee.

Singing a proud tune

MO KANSAS CITY — Mike Hendricks is hoping he can make his hometown sing a different tune.

Hendricks was baffled to learn "Kansas City," the 1950s ditty that goes, "I'm goin' to Kansas City — Kansas City here I come," was not

his city's official song.

So the Kansas City Star writer did what any communist would do to stir up change — he started singing ink.

In recent months, his columns on correcting the oversight have caught the city's attention. The effort has even received the blessing of Mike Stoller and Jerry Leiber, the songwriters who penned the song in 1951.

This month, the newspaper and city planners will start a campaign to make the song the town's definitive golden oldie.

A bright future in steel

MS COLUMBUS — Gov. Haley Barbour signed a bill containing financial incentives to lure a steel mill to the state.

A company called SteelCorr wants to break ground this month on a mill to manufacture automotive-grade steel. The plant is supposed to create 450 jobs paying an average of \$70,000 a year.

Navajo gambling

AZ WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. cleared the way for gambling at five tribal chapters by taking no action on legislation passed by the tribal council. The council voted 59-14 last month for a proposal to legalize gambling in the Shiprock, Hogback and Manulito chapters in New Mexico and the Nahata Dził and Leupp chapters in Arizona.

Voting problems alleged

MD ROCKVILLE — A review of voting machines used in Maryland's most populous county for the November elections found that 7 percent of the machines had problems such as frozen screens or failed to boot up.

An additional 5 percent in Montgomery County had vote tallies that were considerably lower than other machines used in the same precincts, causing election officials to deem them "suspect," according to the report. It was drafted by the county in December for the local election board.

But state officials disputed those figures, saying a review of the county's machines conducted by the state and the equipment's manufacturer showed that only 0.4 percent had significant problems in the Nov. 3 election.

4 killed at bus stop

NV LAS VEGAS — An SUV jumped the curb and plowed into a bench at a municipal bus stop, killing four people and scattering bodies, broken glass and schoolbooks.

The driver was jailed on suspicion of driving under the influence, police said.

The Ford Explorer skidded along a concrete wall about 10 miles from the Las Vegas Strip and demolished the bench on which the victims were sitting, police said.

"Basically the bench is attached to the cement wall," Sgt. Chris Jones said. "There was no place for them to go."

The victims were not immediately identified but appeared to be in their middle and late teens, Jones said.

The 34-year-old driver was not seriously hurt.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The sun and moon are in compatible water signs, stirring up a powerful elixir of emotion. Something that merely irked you yesterday now seems terribly urgent and must be dealt with before you become so impassioned that you lose all sense of appropriateness. There are only two days left in this solar cycle. Don't hesitate.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 18). You truly have a new attitude this year, which opens avenues for success. Exclusive critics welcome you. One social life leads to another, and before you know it, you're in love! But the practicalities must be worked out by June, or it takes several more months for this relationship to hit a comfortable groove. Love signs are Taurus and Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

It's easy to be snobbish. But the chance to practice compassion was never so apparent. The mess you witness this afternoon has everything to do with human error. Have pity on the poor creatures we all are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Someone close is in love with an idealized version of you. It's tempting to feed this fantasy and let it all go to your head! Is that so wrong? What if you saw yourself on a regular basis just as this person does?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Put more heart into your work. Just when you think you're giving it your all, that overachiever shows up with a new standard for excellence. If you're doing your very, very best, there's no reason to feel bad about the end result.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The afternoon features a host of strange but benign interruptions. Beware of people who have nothing better to do with their time but "hang out." You need all the productive hours you can get.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The support you offer someone is not the same support that person can offer you. Nonetheless, don't stop giving.

You learn something new and find deeper wells of respect for a loved one when you step into his or her territory.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You need all the optimism you can get today. Dress in cheery colors. Orange and gold are lucky. Some of you win money this afternoon. Use your spare hours to clean up a pig sty — even if it's not yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Your way works for you. But be careful not to impose your vision of the world onto impressionable people.

Children, especially, are very capable of forming their own opinions and should be encouraged to do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Someone entrancing comes onto the scene this afternoon. It's hard for you to part company. You may even develop a fast crush. You are particularly susceptible to the charms of a Gemini or Pisces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You catch the "fever," whether it's hopping on to a hot trend, falling in love with an irresistible someone, or falling prey to that cold that's been passed around the office. (Steer clear of places known to host an array of germs.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You can smell success, and you want to rush after it. But people around you feel safer when you act in a slow, controlled manner. As a famous officer once said, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The pessimists close in. Hold onto your faith, you child of the air! The world depends on you to be fanciful and filled with wonder. Remember, before you were born, you could fly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You're not vulnerable, but you are open minded. If you crack the window to listen, loved ones fill your ears with promises, promises — set out on your kitchen table like empty teacups.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



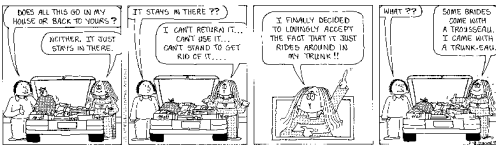
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



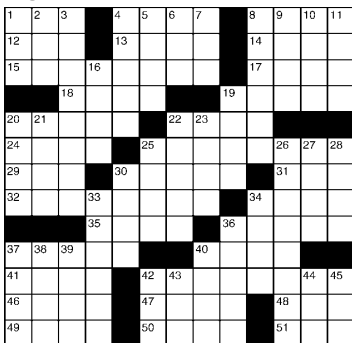
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Puncturing tool
- 4 Sail support
- 8 Homel product
- 12 Privy
- 13 H-ds-O?
- 14 Exile isle
- 15 Track event
- 17 Us (Fr.)
- 18 Continue
- 19 Shoe-box datum
- 20 Cap feature
- 22 Soundrel
- 24 "The jig —!"
- 25 Auto-parts store supply
- 29 Actor Wallach
- 30 Hitchcock villains
- 31 Man-mouse link
- 32 Swamps
- 34 Nabokov novel
- 35 Follow orders
- 36 Code of tenets
- 37 Recently
- 40 Blunder
- 41 Exam format
- 42 Considerable period
- 46 Faction
- 47 Jai —
- 49 Pay attention
- 50 Apportion
- 51 Shade provider

Down

- 1 The whole shooting match
- 2 Court
- 3 Forte
- 4 Captain's superior
- 5 "Son of —"
- 6 Amount of money
- 7 Eavesdropping device
- 8 Doddering
- 9 Trudge along
- 10 Touch
- 11 TV show set in Asia
- 16 Greasy stuff
- 19 Entanglements
- 20 Panorama
- 21 Man is one
- 22 Robust
- 23 Tackles'
- 25 Suitmate
- 26 Look of melancholy
- 27 Barbershop request
- 28 "Mens — in corpore ..."
- 30 Family newcomer
- 33 Lounged about
- 34 Milne bruin
- 36 Orphaned calf
- 37 Snack
- 38 Pennsylvania port
- 39 Virginia of tennis fame
- 40 Estival pest
- 42 Felon's flight
- 43 Bullring bravo
- 44 It may start "http://"
- 45 "Pink Panther" actor Herbert

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-18

CRYPTOQUIP

V S Y G V B A R G W Q W
B Q Y K W M V C N K W Q Z S Y E B,
O L Z L D E D F F L E W E R W
H V N R B J W L C Y E L C V A
J O L L H ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I BELIEVE IF
SOMEONE DEMOLISHES A ROOF, HE SHOULD
GET IN TROUBLE FOR EAVESDROPPING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

Adults' 'horseplay' dangerous

Dear Abby: Every holiday or special occasion that's celebrated in our home involves a certain amount of "horseplay" between the men — my two adult stepsons and stepsons-in-law. Their ages range from 35 to 40.

When these supposed grown-ups come to visit, open gifts, etc., they wind up wrestling in our living room. The base of one of my lamps has been chipped, and once, my granddaughter (then 10) was pushed under a glass table and her back was scraped through her shirt.

I have asked them nicely to stop or to go downstairs, and this year I asked them to take it outside. They'll quit for a while, but act like I'm ruining their fun by telling them to stop. My husband refuses to say anything to them about it. He says it's a small price to pay because they are otherwise helpful, considerate and caring individuals, which is true. I should add that alcohol is involved.

Dear Abby



I'm afraid someone will get hurt or my furniture will be broken.

Not Amused in Washington
Dear Not Amused: You're afraid someone will be hurt? Someone WAS hurt — your granddaughter! If that wasn't a wake-up call for those literally "high"-spirited, overgrown adolescents, it will never happen. At the very least, the "boys" should pay to repair or replace any items they have damaged.

Alcohol isn't "involved"; alcohol is the problem. Until the issue is brought out into the open in your family, your problem will continue.

Dear Abby: I invite my best friend, "Lara," out for lunch about twice a month, so we can sit down and catch up on our lives in person. I look forward to it, and consider it female bonding time. Because Lara currently has a low-paying job, I foot the

bill for these outings. I don't mind doing it because I enjoy her company.

Lara's husband, "Nicky," is out of work, and frankly, he's not looking very hard to find another one. My problem is that Nicky usually asks me if Nicky can come along with her to lunch. I always say yes because I don't know how to say no without offending her. Paying for Nicky drains my budget pretty quickly.

Is there a nice way of telling Lara that her husband's presence interferes with my one-on-one time?

— Frustrated in Rainy California

Dear Frustrated: I think you've put it very well in your letter. Her husband's presence restricts the kind of conversation you'd prefer to have with her, and the expense is busting your budget. That's neither offensive nor should it be embarrassing. It's the truth.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOBAB

DETES

ROHORR

ROZNEF

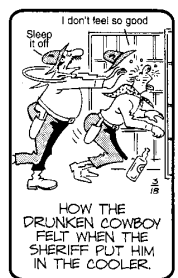
www.jumble.com

Answer here:

Jumbles: TITLE SOOTY FLATLY POISON

Answer: The jockey's maid didn't arrive because it was — LEFT AT THE "POST"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Give wife last chance before divorce

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Ruth" for eight years, and we have a 7-year-old daughter. The first year we dated, Ruth cheated on me with her ex-boyfriend. I forgave her and believed it was an isolated incident.

However, four years ago, I found evidence that Ruth was engaging in various cybersex activities, including exchanging nude pictures and discussing potential in-person meetings.

When she confronted Ruth, she denied everything, then tried to make me feel guilty for having caught her. Still, when she promised to turn over a new leaf, I believed her.

Over the next few years, I repeatedly caught her in similar activity. After each confrontation, I stupidly believed she would change "this time."

Last year, Ruth went to her 10-year high school reunion, where she met up with the ex-boyfriend. Someone saw them making out and told me.

Later, I found e-mail messages

Annie's Mailbox



where Ruth said she had planned to sleep with her ex at the reunion because she still wants him.

I've asked Ruth to go for counseling with me, but she refuses. I want a divorce. However, I worry about our daughter.

Also, a divorce might very well send us both into bankruptcy.

— Betrayed in the Midwest

Dear Betrayed: It is obvious that Ruth cannot be trusted and she is not committed to your marriage. Give her one last chance to prove otherwise. Tell her if she does not go with you for counseling, you are filing for divorce.

Then see an attorney about your options and financial situation, and arrange some counseling for yourself and your daughter. For low-cost options, check the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (www.nlada.org) and Alliance for Children and Families (alliance1.org).

Dear Annie: This is in response to the woman who complained about people not giving up their seats or stepping aside to let her pass into the church pew. I find her attitude rude.

My husband and I arrive at church a half-hour early to get the seats we prefer. Why should we give them up? Maybe "Hosier" needs to set her alarm clock earlier. Her cry that "we have children" is just another excuse for lack of responsibility. My mom raised seven children, and on Sunday, we were all lined up ready to go on time.

California Churchgoer
Dear California: No one is asking you to change seats if you don't wish to. But some people refuse to move out of the way and allow others to reach available spots inside the pew. That, too, is rude, no matter how much later one shows up.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Am Landline column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



3-18

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"I'm okay with my p's and q's, but I have to mind my b's and d's."



Dennis the Menace



*SURE! WE'LL TAKE ALL THE MAGAZINES THAT HAVE COMBOS AND CARICONS!

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



*Goldberg, you idiot! Don't pay tricks on those things—they can't distinguish between "laughing with" and "laughing at!"

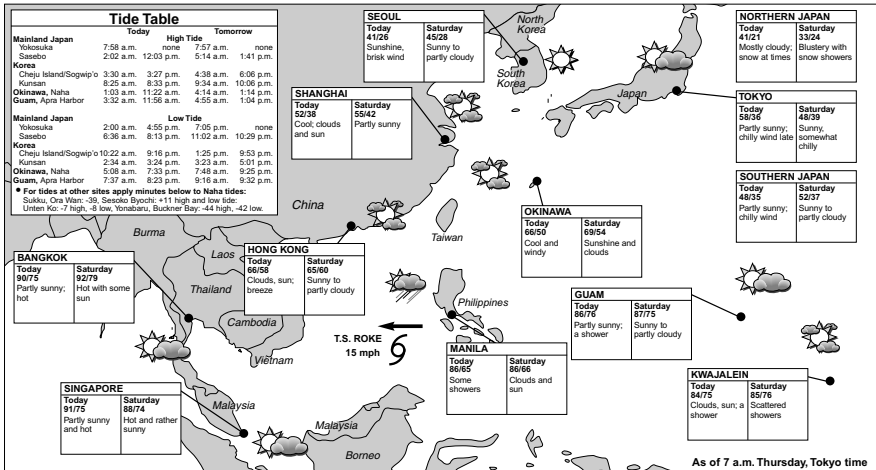
Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
by AccuWeather.com ©2005



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 54, low 38.
Monday: Rain, high 41, low 27.

KADENA
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 72, low 57.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 72, low 62.

SEoul
Sunday: Mostly sunny, high 50, low 34.
Monday: Mostly sunny, high 56, low 44.

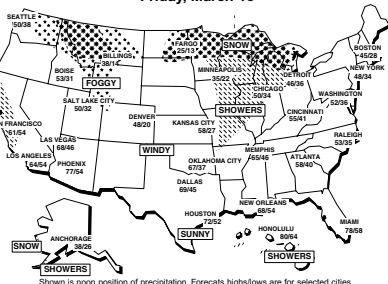
MANILA
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 71.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 90, low 70.

HAGATNA
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 79.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 77.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	49/29	Los Angeles	75/52
Amarillo	47/29	Little Rock	50/36
Anchorage	38/21	Louisville	49/34
Baltimore	39/34	Miami	87/70
Birmingham	49/28	Milwaukee	42/26
Bismarck	26/14	Nashville	42/33
Boise	61/39	New York	45/32
Boston	46/28	Omaha	54/32
Brownsville	60/43	Orlando	85/64
Buffalo	34/24	Philadelphia	49/30
Burlington	35/19	Phoenix	73/50
Charleston, SC	55/45	Pittsburgh	41/21
Charlotte	43/35	Portland, OR	56/43
Cleveland	38/27	Portland, ME	39/22
Columbus, OH	45/28	Salt Lake City	57/37
Duluth	27/14	San Antonio	55/37
El Paso	52/32	San Diego	71/52
Hartford	44/25	San Juan	85/72
Helena	52/31	Tampa	78/66
Indianapolis	48/30	Tulsa	53/34
Jacksonville	74/54	Washington, DC	49/32
Kansas City	56/35	Wichita	55/35

Friday, March 18



U.S. Extended Forecast

Friday, a storm system will approach California, and some rain will fall in northern and central parts of the state, especially in the afternoon. Meanwhile, a storm over the Upper Midwest will produce some snow around Fargo and Minneapolis. High pressure will keep the southern Plains and Gulf Coast dry. Rain should end in the morning across coastal sections of the Carolinas. Aside from a few flurries near the Great Lakes, the Northeast and Ohio Valley will be dry with some sunshine. The weekend will bring gusty winds to the West Coast, and some rain and mountain snow will fall as well. Low pressure will weaken as it heads through the Great Lakes.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/75	Iwakuni	48/33
Beijing	50/36	Kadena AB	66/50
Camp Casey	43/26	Kunsan AB	43/31
Christchurch	64/48	Kwajalein	84/75
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	85/72
Hagatna	86/76	Misawa AB	44/21
Hanoi	72/61	Osan	43/27
Hong Kong	66/58	Perth	63/81
Honolulu	80/64	Pusan	47/34

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/75	Iwakuni	48/33	Nairobi	80/55
Beijing	50/36	Kadena AB	66/50	New Delhi	83/68
Camp Casey	43/26	Kunsan AB	43/31	Oslo	33/18
Christchurch	64/48	Kwajalein	84/75	Paris	65/53
Diego Garcia	86/78	Manila	85/72	Rio de Janeiro	78/67
Hagatna	86/76	Misawa AB	44/21	Rome	70/55
Hanoi	72/61	Osan	43/27	St. Petersburg	19/9
Hong Kong	66/58	Perth	63/81	Stockholm	27/11
Honolulu	80/64	Pusan	47/34	Warsaw	44/21



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Norwegian musher Sorlie wins second Iditarod title

BY RACHEL D'ORO
The Associated Press

NOME, Alaska — Norway's Robert Sorlie won the Iditarod on Wednesday, overcoming insomnia and a dwindling dog team for his second win in only three tries.

Sorlie, a 47-year-old firefighter, crossed under the arch that serves as the finish line at 8:39 a.m., winning the 1,100-mile race

across Alaska in nine days, 18 hours, 39 minutes and 31 seconds. "It feels good," Sorlie said. "I am ready for breakfast."

Sorlie finished the race with eight dogs — half the number he started the race with, but the same number that took him to victory two years ago.

Sorlie is a three-time champion of Norway's premier long-distance sled dog race, the 600-mile Finnmarksløp.

This year's run was only the third time Sorlie had made the 1,100-mile trip from Anchorage to Nome, a town of 3,500 at the edge of the frozen Bering Sea. In his first showing, in 2002, he finished ninth, setting a rookie record. He won the race in 2003.

This time, Sorlie grabbed the lead early. The owner of a small kennel, he fended off a strong field that included seasoned veter-

ans and five other Iditarod champions.

"I think this win is better than the 2003," he said. "This year, the dogs are better."

Sorlie is the second Iditarod winner born outside the United States and the second person who didn't make their home in Alaska to win. Doug Swingley of Lincoln, Mont., won four times and Martin Buser, a Swiss native who has lived in

Alaska more than two decades, became a U.S. citizen after winning his fourth Iditarod in 2002.

For winning the 33rd Iditarod, Sorlie will receive \$72,066.67 and a pickup truck. Seventy-nine mushers started this year's race, which has a purse of \$750,000. As of Wednesday morning, 66 mushers were still running.

Ed Iken, racing in his seventh Iditarod, finished second about 35 minutes behind Sorlie.

Rudi Johnson, Pace get long-term deals

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Bengals signed running back Rudi Johnson to a five-year contract on Wednesday, a year after he set the team's season record for rushing yardage.

Johnson's agent, Peter Schaffer, said the deal was worth close to published reports of \$26 million, with \$12 million guaranteed.

The contract replaces a one-year, \$6.3 million deal Johnson signed on May 7 after he was designated the team's franchise player on Feb. 15. He was paid \$1.8 million in 2004.

"He's so commended for his part in keeping the core of our offensive unit together," coach Marvin Lewis said.

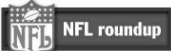
Johnson, who ran for 1,454 yards last season, joins three other key offensive players — quarterback Carson Palmer and wide receivers Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh — who are signed through the year 2008.

Pace, Rams agree to 7-year deal

ST. LOUIS — For the first time in four seasons, Orlando Pace will be playing with more than a one-year contract.

The St. Louis Rams and the six-time Pro Bowl offensive tackle beat a looming deadline on Wednesday, agreeing on a seven-year, \$52.9 million deal.

The team said it would hold a news conference on Thursday to discuss the deal, which will ensure an on-time arrival in train-



ing camp for Pace. The past two seasons Pace held out throughout training camp.

The Rams had faced a 3 p.m. deadline to re-sign Pace, who visited the Houston Texans on Monday and Tuesday to discuss a possible deal. Had the Rams failed to re-sign Pace by the deadline, the sides couldn't have signed a contract until July 15.

Colts' James signs franchise offer, still seeking trade

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts' career rushing leader is staying put — for now.

Former two-time NFL rushing champion Edgerrin James signed a one-year franchise offer Wednesday that will pay him a little more than \$8 million this year.

But that won't slow James' efforts to get a long-term deal or seek a trade.

"We think by making the move, it will help facilitate either a long-term deal or enhance our chances of working out a trade," said Drew Rosenhaus, James' agent. "We've always stated we are not interested in playing out a one-year deal."

The move comes one week after team president Bill Polian told Rosenhaus that the Colts could not afford to sign James to a long-term contract.

Rosenhaus has been trying to

work out a trade since, a deal Polian told Rosenhaus would not require a first-round pick for the three-time Pro Bowler.

The Colts are prohibited from reaching a long-term agreement with James before mid-July, or they would lose the franchise tag for the length of the contract.

QB Johnson rejoins Vikings

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings agreed to terms with Brad Johnson on Wednesday, bringing the quarterback back to where he began his NFL career 13 years ago.

Johnson will get a four-year contract worth \$6 million with a \$1.2 million signing bonus, says Philip Williams said.

He will replace Gus Frerotte, who signed with Miami earlier in the week. Johnson will serve as the backup to Daunte Culpepper.

In other developments Tuesday and Wednesday:

■ The Cleveland Browns signed free agent linebacker Matt Stewart to a three-year contract, giving coach Romeo Crennel another option for his 3-4 defensive scheme. Stewart, 25, was Atlanta's second-leading tackler last season with 89 stops.

■ Offensive tackle Tom Ashworth, who missed the second half of last season and the playoffs with a back injury, re-signed with the New England Patriots.

■ San Diego signed outside linebacker Steve Foley to a three-year contract extension through 2009 worth roughly \$10 million. Foley had 10 sacks last season.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Chris Carter of Okinawa's Spotlight shoots over Greg Cummins of Japan's Camp Fuji on Wednesday in the March Madness tournament at Andersen Air Base, Guam. Spotlight won 100-44. Results on Page 26.

Guam prep players help Anderson women's team

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — For Guam High basketball players Porsche Jones, Jackie Street and Jamese Slade, this week's March Madness tournament is the best of both worlds.

Not only are they providing the host Andersen Bombers women's team an inside presence, but the three hope the grind of a six-day tournament can help them prepare for the high school season, which is played in the spring on Guam.

"Playing adults is two times more intense than high school," said Jones, a senior.

"It helps us increase our skills," added Slade, a sophomore.

"They're stronger and faster," Street, a junior, said of adult players. "High-school ball is not as fast or as physical. And you have to think more. These players are smarter and more experienced."

With Guam High and the rest of the island's public and private schools off this week for spring break, the three Panthers offered to play with the Bombers at March Madness.

They were welcomed with open arms, said Andersen guard Pam Haley, mainly for their abilities inside; the three prep players, add some height to an otherwise short Bombers squad.

"They're a great asset," Haley said. "They add quickness, and we didn't have any post players. They help out inside a lot."

The Bombers were one of five teams entered in the combined round-robin/double-elimination playoff tournament. Three of the five qualify for the playoffs.

Whether Andersen qualifies or not, and whether the Bombers end up playing for all six days or just four, the high-school threesome say they'll take with them an extra edge entering the regular season, starting on a date to be determined later this month.

"We'll be physically and mentally prepared," Slade said. "We're getting in shape, getting psyched and getting prepared. And instead of them [adults] bumping us around, we'll be bumping [other high school teams] around."

Guam High returns four starters and seven total players to a team that enjoyed its best-ever season a year ago. The Panthers took third place in the regular season and made it to the league quarterfinals.

Jones left little doubt of her optimism about the team's chances of winning their first league title in the school's eight-year history.

"All the way," Jones said without hesitation. "We're taking the title this year."

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A novel season nets rave reviews

Hawkeyes finish strong after dismissing their top scorer

By C. TRENT ROSECRANS
Cincinnati Post

His team lost, but Iowa basketball coach Steve Alford knew things would be OK following the Hawkeyes' 75-64 loss to Michigan State on Feb. 5.

Just three days after kicking his leading scorer, Pierce Pierce, off the team, the Hawkeyes came back from a 22-point deficit in the second half to get within three points with a minute left.

"We didn't give up," Alford said about that game. "That solidified it in our minds that we were going to respond the right way."

Iowa didn't win, but it was the way his team responded that gave the former Indiana point guard hope his team could overcome a soap-opera season and advance to where they are now, preparing for the first round of the NCAA tournament against Cincinnati on Thursday at Indianapolis.

Pierce, who led the Hawkeyes with 17.8 points per game, was dismissed from the team on Feb. 2 after an incident involving an ex-girlfriend at an Iowa City apartment complex on Jan. 27. Pierce pled not guilty to three felony charges and a misdemeanor on March 1.

A trial for the two counts of first-degree burglary and one count of assault with intent to commit sexual assault, as well as the misdemeanor count of fourth-degree criminal mischief, will likely begin in mid-May.

When dismissing Pierce, Alford said his star didn't take advantage of his second chance. Pierce was charged with third-degree sexual assault in 2002. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge.

Despite what Alford felt was a positive response against the Spartans, the Hawkeyes lost five of their next six following Pierce's dismissal. Four of those five were against teams in the NCAA tournament—Michigan State, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.

"I thought playing those teams, even though they were losses, they proved to themselves they would be OK," Alford said.

The biggest surprise was that even after losing a player the caliber of Pierce, the Hawkeyes didn't change much schematically. The Hawkeyes are



Iowa basketball coach Steve Alford encourages his players after the Hawkeyes' victory last week over Michigan State in the Big Ten tournament, a result that gave an enormous boost to Iowa's NCAA hopes.

doing pretty much the same things they did with Pierce, only with Mike Henderson in the starting lineup instead.

The scoring load has shifted from Pierce to sophomore guard Adam Haluska. The Iowa State transfer is averaging 17.4 points a game since Pierce was dismissed. He was averaging 12.4 points before that.

Junior forward Greg Brunner has averaged 15.5 points per game following Pierce's dismissal and junior point guard Jeff Horner is averaging 15 points per game in the past 12.

"We had every reason to coast, but I've got to give credit to our guys," Alford said.

The key game for the turnaround, according to Alford, was a 78-56 victory at Penn State on Feb. 26.

"It may sound too simple, but it gave us a lot of confidence," Alford said.

Amid talk of Alford's job security, the win at Penn State was the start of a five-game winning streak that led the Hawkeyes from NIT preparations to the NCAA tournament bubble and the Big Ten tournament semifinals, where they fell to Wisconsin on a last-second shot.

If put the Hawkeyes in position to make the NCAA tournament, yet there were plenty of doubts as the team sat through the selection show on Sunday.

When Iowa was finally announced on the final bracket that was unveiled there was so much celebration that there was little regard to whom the Hawkeyes would face and where they'd play.

"When all's said and done, it's how you handle things," Alford said. "In coaching, I learned from when I was a player, there are good times, bad times and ugly times. If you're steadfast in what you believe in all three times, you'll be successful."

Iowa is in a state of hoops euphoria

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — What a week to be a basketball fan in Iowa.

Iowa State, Iowa and Northern Iowa are getting ready to play in the men's NCAA tournament, the Iowa State women are in the NAAs and the boys' high school tournament is under way in Des Moines.

"Being a product of the state of Iowa, a product of Iowa high school basketball, to have it happen in the week of the boys' tournament, I can't imagine more excitement in the state of Iowa over basketball than there is today," Northern Iowa coach Greg McDermott said Monday.

Iowa (21-11) gets things started on Thursday afternoon against Cincinnati (24-7) in Indianapolis. Iowa State (18-11) plays Minnesota (21-10) on Friday afternoon in Charlotte, N.C., and Northern Iowa (21-10) takes on Wisconsin on Friday night in Oklahoma City.

"Obviously, it's terrific for the state," Iowa coach Steve Alford said. "Iowa State has had a great run. Northern Iowa has been solid all year. We had to play both of those teams in hard-fought games in our building, so we have a lot of respect for both of those programs."

In the women's tournament, Iowa State (23-6) plays Utah (21-7) in Fresno, Calif., on Saturday night.

This is the first time the state has put three teams in the men's NCAA tournament. All three got in as at-large selections, which is especially noteworthy for Northern Iowa.

The Panthers had to win their

conference tournament to earn their two previous NCAA berths — last year and in 1990.

"It's somewhat unbelievable," said McDermott, who grew up in Cascade. "It's one thing to win a conference tournament. But when you think about the number of teams competing for those few at-large bids, it's hard to do. For us to be standing here as an at-large recipient, it's phenomenal."

McDermott thanked the two other state schools for helping make that happen. Iowa and Iowa State play Northern Iowa every year and that strengthens the Panthers' schedule. A game at Cincinnati early in the season also helped UNT's résumé.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Iowa State and Iowa," McDermott said. "Without their willingness to play us, we would not have a leg to stand on in competing for at-large bids."

It will be the first NCAA tournament for all the Iowa and Iowa State players. Both schools last played in the tournament in 2001.

"My goal, since I was a little kid, was to get to the point where I'd be at right now," Iowa's Greg Brunner said.

Iowa State made the field in its second season under coach Wayne Morgan, who picked up the pieces from Larry Eustachy's messy departure in 2003. Morgan said he was confident this would happen.

"I don't know if I saw us in the NCAA two years later, but I saw us in the NCAA as we built the team," he said. "Our objective now is to get to the point where we take it almost for granted and get to the point where we can try to compete to win the thing."

Identity: Do you know me now?

IDENTITY, FROM BACK PAGE

Off the court, Coppentrath is an unassuming personality from a small Vermont town. When an elementary school student asked him to speak to his class, Coppentrath said yes. Then the child called him the day of the speech and said he couldn't come because his father, who was supposed to drive him, had to work. So Coppentrath picked up the boy at his house and drove him there.

Fazeakas, a 6-11 sophomore, was the WAC Player of the Year, averaging 21.8 points and 10.7 rebounds. Basketball junkies got a glimpse of how good he is when Nevada beat Vermont and Coppentrath in a Bracket Busters matchup.

His nose was broken in the regular season finale at San Jose State and he'll continue to wear a protective mask in NCAA play.

The mask is no big deal. I don't even know it is on my face anymore," Fazeakas said.

Mendez is the top-scoring Canadian-born player in Division I history, passing the likes of NBA star Steve Nash. The Spanish-speaking native of Montreal, the MAAC player of the year, is the only player this season to rank in the top 10 in both scoring (23.6) and rebounding (10.5) in Division I.

In the MAAC championship game, Mendez,

scored 27 points and added 13 rebounds and earned tournament MVP honors.

"He'd start for anybody in our conference (the Big 12)," said Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson, whose Sooners drew Niagara in the opening round.

While playing for the Canadian National Team last summer, Mendez, who's 6-8, 245, went up against Yao Ming, the 7-6 Chinese star and Houston Rocket.

"He says he did OK," said Niagara coach Joe Mihalic.

Loughton and Turiaf also are foreign born. Loughton is from Perth, Australia, and Turiaf from Martinique.

Loughton, a 6-9 junior, was the Colonial Athletic Association Player of the Year and averages 13.9 points and 8.1 rebounds. He had an impressive game in Old Dominion's overtime win over Virginia Commonwealth in the conference tournament championship game.

He's a throwback player, somebody who compensates for his lack of quickness with fundamental skills any coach would pass along to a clinic audience.

Turiaf, a 6-10, 249-pound senior, has a full beard and imposes himself on his opponents. Despite ankle problems, the West Coast Conference Player of the Year averages 16.1 points and 9.3 rebounds and blocks two shots per game.



Johnny Mathies was the driving force in Creighton's Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship run, earning MVP honors.

All these mystery men have basketball pedigrees that few fans know about. That could change this weekend.

Vermont's Taylor Coppentrath is a three-time conference player of the year who has NBA-type talent.

Men's NCAA tournament

OPENING ROUND

Tuesday, March 15
 Oakland, Mich. 79, Alabama 69
SYRACUSE REGIONAL
First Round
Friday, March 18
 Charlotte (21-7) vs. North Carolina State (13-13)
 Connecticut (22-7) vs. Central Florida (24-8)
 Minnesota (21-10) vs. Iowa State (18-11)
 North Carolina (27-4) vs. Oakland, Mich. (13-13)
 Florida (23-7) vs. Ohio (21-10)
 Wisconsin (22-7) vs. New Mexico (26-6)
 Wisconsin (22-8) vs. Northern Iowa (21-10)
 Kansas (23-6) vs. Bucknell (22-7)

Second Round

Sunday, March 20
 Connecticut/Central Florida vs. Charlotte/North Carolina
 North Carolina/Oakland, Mich. vs. Minnesota/Iowa State
 Florida/Ohio vs. Villanova/New Mexico
 Kansas/Bucknell vs. Wisconsin/Northern Iowa

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
 North Carolina/Oakland, Mich. - Minnesota/Iowa State winner vs. Florida/Ohio - Villanova/New Mexico
 Connecticut/Central Florida - Charlotte/North Carolina State vs. Kansas/Bucknell - Wisconsin/Northern Iowa

Championship

CHICAGO REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
 Alabama (24-7) vs. Wisconsin-Milwaukee (24-5)
 North Carolina College (24-5) vs. Pennsylvania State (28-9)
 Illinois (32-1) vs. Fairleigh Dickinson (21-10)
 Arizona (27-6) vs. Utah State (24-7)
 Oklahoma (29-9) vs. Alabama-Birmingham (21-10)

Friday, March 18

Oklahoma State (24-6) vs. Southeastern Louisiana (24-9)
 Southern Illinois (26-7) vs. Saint Mary's, Calif. (25-8)
Second Round
Saturday, March 19
 Boston College/Pennsylvania vs. Alabama/Birmingham
 Illinois/Fairleigh Dickinson vs. Texas/Nevada
 Arizona/Utah State vs. LSU/Alabama-Birmingham

Semifinals

Sunday, March 20
 Oklahoma State/Southern Louisiana vs. Southern Illinois/Saint Mary's, Calif.

Championship

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
 Illinois/Fairleigh Dickinson - Texas/Nevada vs. Boston College/Pennsylvania - Alabama/Birmingham
 Oklahoma State/Southeastern Louisiana - Southern Illinois/Saint Mary's, Calif. vs. Arizona/Utah State - LSU/Alabama-Birmingham

Championship

AUSTIN REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
 Kentucky (24-5) vs. Eastern Kentucky (22-8)
 Oklahoma (24-7) vs. Iowa (21-11)
 Oklahoma State (25-9) vs. Niagara (20-9)
 Texas Tech (27-5) vs. Pacific (27-7)

Friday, March 18

Syracuse (27-5) vs. Vermont (24-6)
 Michigan State (22-6) vs. Old Dominion (22-5)
 Duke (25-5) vs. Delaware State (19-13)
 Texas Tech (18-12) vs. Mississippi State (22-10)
Second Round
Sunday, March 19
 Kentucky/Eastern Kentucky vs. Cincinnati/Kansas

At The McKale Center

Tucson, Ariz.
 Oklahoma/Niagara vs. Utah/Texas-El Paso
Sunday, March 20
 Syracuse/Vermont vs. Michigan State/Old Dominion
 Duke/Delaware State vs. Stanford/Mississippi State

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
 Duke/Delaware State - Stanford/Mississippi State vs. Syracuse/Vermont - Michigan State/Old Dominion winner
 Kentucky/Eastern Kentucky - Cincinnati/Niagara vs. Oklahoma/Niagara - Utah/Texas-El Paso

Championship

ALBUQUERQUE REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 17
 Wake Forest (26-5) vs. Chattanooga (20-10)
 Texas Tech (21-10) vs. Creighton (22-10)
 Pacific (26-3) vs. Pittsburgh (20-8)
 Texas Tech (27-5) vs. Miami (20-10)
 Gonzaga (25-4) vs. Winthrop (22-5)
 Texas Tech (27-5) vs. Middle Tennessee (22-10)

Friday, March 18

Louisville (29-4) vs. George Washington (20-10)
 Texas Tech (21-11) vs. George Washington (22-7)
Second Round
Sunday, March 19
 Wake Forest/Chattanooga vs. West Virginia/Creighton
 Washington/Miami vs. Pacific/Pittsburgh
 Gonzaga/Winthrop vs. Texas Tech/Virginia Tech

Semifinals

Sunday, March 20
 Louisville/Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Georgia Tech/George Washington

Championship

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
 Washington/Miami - Pacific/Pittsburgh vs. Louisville/Louisiana-Lafayette - Georgia Tech/George Washington

Semifinals

Friday, March 25
 Wake Forest/Chattanooga - West Virginia/Creighton vs. Gonzaga/Winthrop - Texas Tech/Virginia Tech

Championship

FINAL FOUR
Saturday, April 2
 Chicago Regional champion vs. Albuquerque Regional champion
 Syracuse Regional champion vs. Austin Regional champion

Monday, April 4

Championship

Oakland continues surge — for now

Golden Grizzlies win play-in, earn right to face top-seeded Tar Heels

BY RUSTY MILLER

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Oakland can still finish the season with a winning record.

All the 13-18 Golden Grizzlies have to do to beat top-seeded North Carolina on the Tar Heels' home court, and then pull off another five upsets during the next three weeks.

"If we win the national championship, we'll finally get to 19-18," coach Greg Kampe said with a laugh.

The Golden Grizzlies took the first step Tuesday night at the University of Dayton, beating Alabama A&M 79-69 in the NCAA opening-round game behind Rawle Marshall's 29 points and Courtney Scott's 21.

Oakland (13-18) won its sixth straight, including three upsets in as many days last week by a combined seven points to take the Mid-Continent Conference title and earn a berth in the field of 65.

"There was a whole lot of adversity during the season," said Brandon Cassie, who added 13 points. "It brought us together. That's why we've played so well in these do-or-die games."

The turnaround is almost incomprehensible for a team that was 7-18 and riding a three-game skid 18 days earlier. Almost as incredible, Oakland opened the season 0-7, losing by an average of 13 points a game, against Illinois, Marquette, Xavier, Missouri, Texas A&M, Kansas and Saint Louis.

The Golden Grizzlies became only the fifth team with a losing record to win an NCAA tournament game, joining Florida A&M (2004), UNC-Asheville (2003) and Siena (2002) all at Dayton — and Bradley (1955).

Obie Trotter scored 24 points and Joseph Martin added 22 for Alabama A&M (18-14), the Southwestern Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament champion.

A&M coach L. Vann Pettaway said his team was worn out from playing four games in six days, winning the conference tournament Sunday before hitting the road less than 24 hours later to make it to Dayton.

"We want to get back to the big dance, but we want to dance when we're rested," he said.

Both teams were making their first appearance in the NCAA tournament. Oakland made the jump from Division II to Division I in the 1997-98 season.

As the Golden Grizzlies stretched the lead to 21 points with 5 minutes left, the emboldened Oakland student section began chanting, "We want Tar Heels! We want Tar Heels!"

"This is surreal," Cassie said. "I can't believe it's all happening."

Marshall, a wiry 6-foot-7 senior swingman expected to be taken in the NBA Draft this spring, had nine rebounds and three assists.

His most dramatic play came in the opening half when he took a pass on the right elbow, pump-faked a defender off his feet and then sliced through the lane for a soaring dunk and foul. A crowd of 8,254 roared its approval.

Ahead 38-35 at the break, Oakland scored 16 of the first 18 points in the second half.



Oakland's Rawle Marshall (1) bumps chests with Pierre Dukes (3) during the NCAA opening-round game with Alabama A&M at Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio. Marshall led Oakland to a 79-69 win with 29 points.

Temple knocked out in Chaney's return

The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — John Chaney was more amused by his welcome back to Cassell Coliseum than by anything he saw once the game started.

Making his return from a three-week suspension that has left his future uncertain, the Temple coach had an easier night than his team, which lost 60-50 to Virginia Tech, a former Atlantic 10 rival of Chaney's Owls.

Zabian Dowdell scored 12 of his 16 points in the second half, six in a game-turning 8-0 run, and Chaney, who had only one point in his first postseason game in nine years, leaving Chaney disgusted with his team.

"We don't shoot the ball consistently and we haven't all year," the 73-year-old Hall of Famer said.

"Our big guys cannot score if you sat them on top of the basket.

Men's NIT

We put them in and they don't rebound, either."

Talking basketball, Chaney was passionate. Asked about his future, his famous sunken eyes widened, and he quickly closed the conversation.

"I think I hear my mother calling me," he said when asked.

"I'll be leaving you now if you have no more questions [about] my kids. That's the only reason I'm here — to talk about the team and the game."

Temple athletic director Bill Bradshaw said Monday that he, Chaney and others will get together once the season is over to talk about the future.

The subject of the game was no bargain either for the Owls (16-14), who were trying to give their coach his 500th victory at Temple, but he had only until Virginia Tech got to have three-pointers to fall in the first half.

Then the Hokies (16-13) gave the crowd of 7,416 plenty to cele-



berg made sure his team knew of the Hokies' 1973 and 1995 NIT championships, and they seemed intent on adding to it.

"This is an opportunity. You don't build a championship program overnight. It's a process, and this is part of the process," he said.

The win was Virginia Tech's first against Temple in 10 tries. It was the fourth straight year Temple (16-14) has played in the NIT.

Holy Cross 78, Notre Dame 73: At South Bend, Ind., Kevin Hamilton scored a career-high 26 points, 11 during a 23-5 run in the Crusaders' (25-6) victory over the Fighting Irish (17-12).

South Carolina 69, Miami 67: At Columbia, S.C., Josh Gonnor's driving basket with 2.1 seconds remaining lifted the Gamecocks (16-13) above the Hurricanes (16-13).

DePaul 75, Missouri 70: At Columbia, Mo., Drake Diener scored a career-high 30 points and tied his career best with seven three-pointers as the Blue Demons (20-10) defeated the Tigers (16-17).

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Second-year coach Seth Green-

See Page 26 for NIT results, schedule.

SPORTS

Creating an identity

Unknowns can make name for themselves in NCAA

BY JOHN ROWE

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

Chances are you haven't heard of Johnny Mathies.

No, he isn't the singer who spells his name without the "e."

Mathies is a 6-foot guard at Creighton, one of many NCAA tournament players who until now have been household names only in their own households. That could change before this weekend is over.

The playing field is finally somewhat level for the Mathieses of college basketball. J.J. Redick of Duke and Chris Paul of Wake Forest are no longer images on a television screen. They are opponents.

Could there be another Mousse McDadden, the dynamic Cleveland State guard of the mid-1980s, or Bryce Drew of Valparaiso, who made a game-winning three-pointer in 1998, in this tournament's group of quality but virtually unknown players?

There are plenty of candidates from which to choose. From guards such as Mathies, Ed McCants of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Tim Begley of Penn, to big men like Taylor Coppenrath of Vermont, Nick Fazekas of Nevada, Juan Mendez of Niagara, Alex Loughton of Old Dominion and Romy Turiaf of Gonzaga.

Mathies has underdog written all over him. Despite his size, the junior speedster from Louisville, Ky., is a shooting guard.

After one season at Dixie Junior College in Utah, Mathies joined Creighton in 2003-04, averaging 7.8 points and 1.8 assists. This season he's improved to 11.6 points and 2.2 assists for a team that makes nine three-pointers per game.

Mathies came up big in the Missouri Valley tournament, being selected MVP even though he didn't make any all-conference team.

With a junior-college background, McCants, a 6-5 senior, has a shooter's mentality. He averages 17.4 points and scored a career-high 38 against Detroit and

makes 37 percent of his three-point tries. He hit four threes in the Horizon League championship game.

Begley, the Ivy League Player of the Year, is a big guard (6-6), with an outside game. He is averaging 13.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 4.8 assists a game. He can be a defensive nightmare for a team with a small backcourt.

Coppenrath is the three-time America East Player of the Year who has helped the Catamounts advance to three straight NCAA tournaments. At 6-9, 257 pounds, he has an NBA-like body and a game that has some scouts comparing him to Dirk Nowitzki. He's averaging 25.7 points and 8.9 rebounds and shooting 53.6 percent from the field.

Last year, Connecticut's Emeka Okafor helped limit Coppenrath, the nation's third-leading scorer at 24.7 points per game, to 12 points on 3-for-17 shooting.

SEE IDENTITY ON PAGE 30



Wisconsin-Milwaukee guard Ed McCants averages 17.4 points a game and hits 37 percent of his three-point attempts.



Despite chipped bone in thumb, Iverson outplays Bryant in 76ers' win, Page 27



Nevada's Nick Fazekas, a 6-foot-11 sophomore and WAC Player of the Year, is one of the nation's premier big men and is determined to make a name for himself and his team in their second straight NCAA tournament.



Niagara's 6-8 Juan Mendez is the only player in Division I in the top 10 in both scoring (23.6) and rebounding (10.5) average this season.



Oakland plays on after beating Alabama A&M

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Alford directed Hawkeyes through adversity

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Tournament teams put Iowa in hoops heaven

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McGwire will attend congressional hearing

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